

# Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc.



Gunston Hall, Home of George Mason

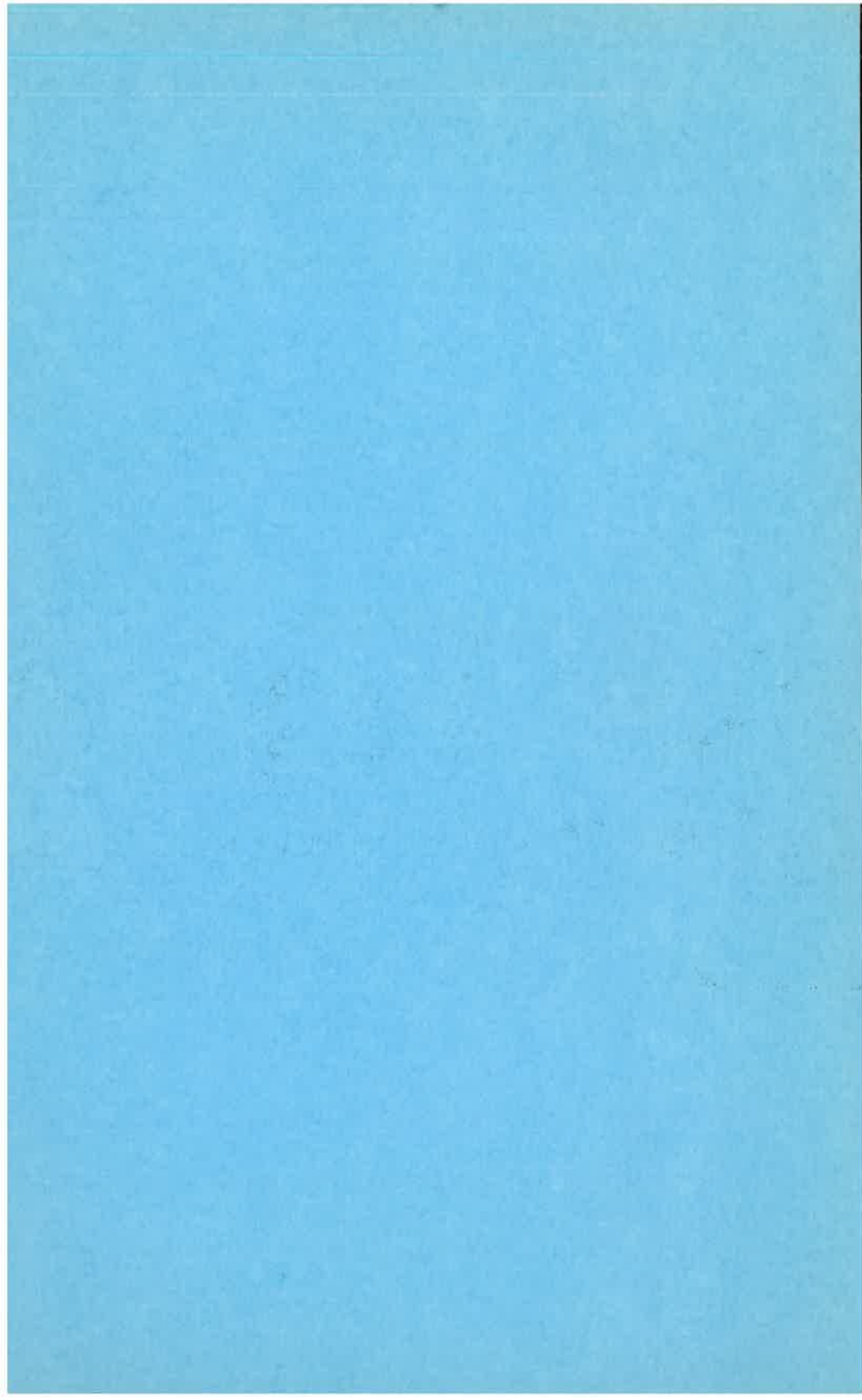
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## YEARBOOK

Vol. 6 — (1958-1959)

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**Historical Society  
of  
Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc.  
  
YEARBOOK**

VOL. 6—(1958-1959)

EDITORS:

JOHN C. MACKALL  
KATHRINE S. SHANDS

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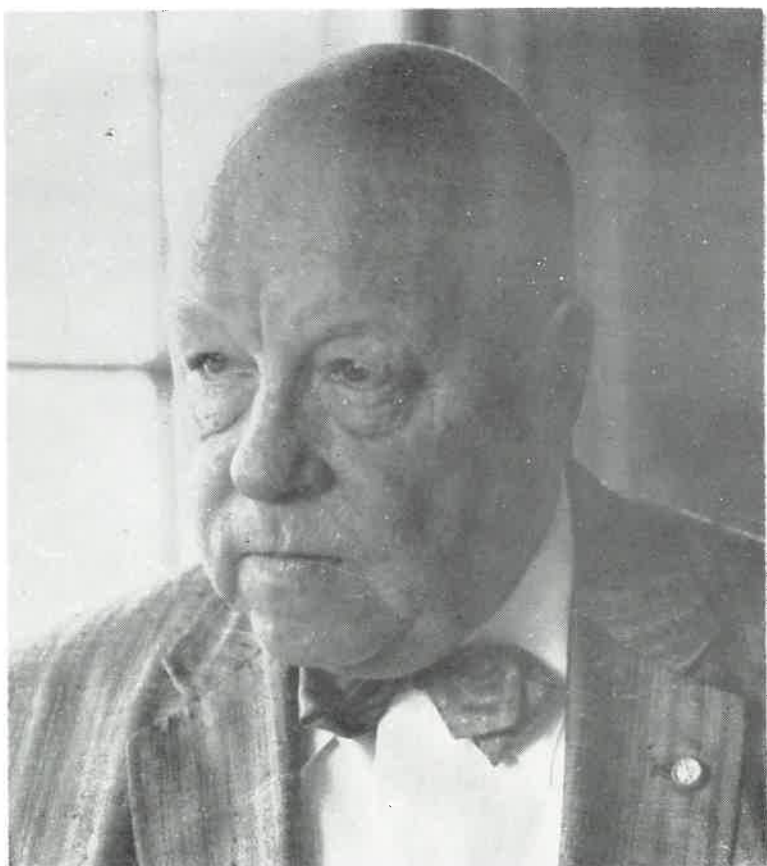
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Charles Pickett, President of the Historical  
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**Last Will And Testament**  
**of**  
**George Mason of Gunston Hall**

I, George Mason of Gunston Hall in the Parish of Truro and County of Fairfax, being of perfect and sound mind and Memory and in good health, but mindful of the uncertainty of human Life, and the imprudence of a man's leaving his Affairs to be settled upon a death bed, do make and Appoint this my last Will and Testament—My soul I resign into the hands of my Almighty Creator, whose tender mercy's are over all his works, who hateth nothing that he hath made, and to the Justice and Wisdom of whose Dispensations I willingly and chearfully submit humbly hoping from his unbounded mercy and benevolence thro the Merits of my blessed Savior, a remission of my sins—My body I desire may be decently buried at the Descretion of my Exors. herein after named, closed by the side of my Dear and ever lamented wife—and as for all the worldly Estate with which it has pleased God to bless me, I dispose of it in manner and form following.

Impremis It is my will and Desire, and I hereby direct and order that all my lands, slaves with their increase, Stocks, rents, crops, Tobacco, and Money And Debts due to me, with the yearly interest arising thereon, with all my other Estate of what nature soever in Virginia Maryland or else where, be kept together and considered as one common stock, for the payment of my Debts and Legacies and the Maintenance and Education of my children, and the payment of their fortunes, untill my said Children respectively come of age or Marry; when and not before each of them is to receive his or her part of the same as herein after respectively devised or bequeathed to each of them; and when any one of my children shall come of Age or Marry and receive his or her part of the same Accordingly, the residue still to continue and remain in the said common stock untill another of my children shall come of Age or Marry, and so on in the same manner, until the youngest of my Children shall come of Age or Marry, and receive his or her part of the same as aforesaid; It being my intention that my Exors. shall not have the trouble and perplexity of keeping different Accts. with all my children, but only one general Account for the whole. Item, I give and bequeath unto each of my four Daughters, Ann Mason, Sarah Mason, Mary Mason, and Elizabeth

Mason, and to each of their heirs forever, when they respectively arrived to the Age of Twenty One Years, or Marry which ever shall first happen the following Slaves with their Increase respectively from the date of this my Will. To my eldest Daughter Ann the four Following Slaves and their increase. To wit, Bess, the Daughter of Cloe and her child Frank, mulatto Priss the Daughter of Jenny and Nell the Daughter of Occoquan Nell, To my Daughter Sarah the three following slaves with their increase, to wit, Hannah and Venus the Daughter of Beck, and mulatto Mima the Daughter of Jenny, to my Daughter Mary the following Slaves with their Increase To wit, Ann and Nell, the Daughter of House Nell, and little Jenny, the Daughter of Jenny, To my Daughter Elizabeth the three following Slaves with their Increase to wit, Nicky the Daughter of Occoquan Nell, Sarah (the Daughter of great Sue) and Rachel (the Daughter of Beck) and I confirm unto my three eldest Daughters, Ann Sarah and Mary their right and title respectively to a Negro Girl given to each of them by their Grand Father Mr. William Eilbeck Dec'd, to wit, a Negro Girl named Penny to my Daughter Ann— a Negro Girl named Priss to my Daughter Sarah and a Negro Girl named Nan to my Daughter Mary. But in the mean time, that is untill my Daughters respectively come of Age or Marry the Profits of all such the above mentioned Slaves as shall not be employ'd in waiting upon any of my said Daughters, or for their use in the House, are to remain in and be considered as part of the Common Stock for the purpose herein before mentioned and if any one or more of my said Daughters should happen to die under Age and unmarried; then and in that case it is my will and desire and I hereby Direct and Order that all the Slaves with their Increase herein before bequeath'd to such Daughter or Daughters shall go to and be equally devided between my other Daughters, or to the Survivor of them, to be delivered them or her, as herein before directed. I also give to each of my sd. four Daughters One Bed and Furniture, to be delivered them at the time and in the manner aforesaid.—Item, I give and bequeath unto each of my sd. four Daughters Ann, Sarah, Mary and Elizabeth, except such of them as may happen to marry and have actually received their fortune in my lifetime, the sum of six hundred Pounds Sterling, out of my money, Debts due to me, & the profits of the Common Stock of my Estate, the sd. sum of Six hundred pounds, Sterling to be paid to each of them, without Defalcation or Dimenution, when then they respectively arrive at the Age of Twenty one years, or Marry, which ever shall first happen; exclusive of any sum or sums given or to be given to any of them by their Grand Mother Mrs. Eilbeck, or for which I have taken or may take bonds for their use or in any of their respective Names— And

if any one of my said Daughters should die under age and unmarried it is my will and Desire, and I hereby direct and order that the Money herein bequeath'd to such Daughter shall go to and be equally divided between all my other surviving Daughters; Such of them as may happen to be of Age or Married at the time, to receive their part of the same and the residue to remain in the common stock, until my other surviving Daughters respectively come of Age and Marry. But if two or more of my Daughters should happen to die under Age and unmarried, then and in that case it is my will and desire, and I hereby direct and order that so much of their money only shall go to my surviving Daughters or Daughters as will increase the fortune of each or either of them to the sum of one Thousand pounds sterling exclusive of their Slaves (or of any money given them by their Grand Mother Mrs. Eilbeck as aforesaid) to be paid them or her in the manner above directed, and that the residue shall remain in the common stock, for the benefit of my four youngest Sons in the Manner herein after directed Item— I give and devise unto my eldest son George Mason and his heirs forever, when he arrives to the Age of Twenty one years or marry's which ever shall first happen, my Mansion house and seat of Gunston Hall, with all my lands thereto belonging or Adjoining being between five and Six Thousand Acres; Also a small Tract of Land Adjoining to the Land of the Rev'd. Mr. Lee Massey, purchased by my Father of Giles and Benoni Tillett; and in General all my Lands between Potomack River, Occoquan River and Pohick Creek in Fairfax County, excepting and reserving unto my Exors. the right and previledge of keeping three quarters upon the said Land, to be considered as part of the common Stock of my Estate, for the Benefit of my Younger Children, and of working the same number of hands as are work'd at the said three quarters respectively at the time of my Death with the right and Previlidge of getting timber for the proper use of the said three Quarters or Plantations on any part of the said Lands. That is to say one Quarter in the bottom of Dogues Neck (commonly call'd the Occoquan Quarter) untill all my sons come of Age, with all the Land which I have usually tended and made use of at the said Quarter, and such other convenient and adjoining Land as is necessary for the use of the same, and the benefit of Suffering all the Stock properly belonging to the said Quarter to range and run at large in the said Neck. And the two other Quarters at Hallowing Point, and upon the Land I bought of William Courts, until all my sons except the youngest come of Age; with all the Land between the upper line of the said Tract Bought of William Courts, the river and the great Marsh; and the benefits of All the Stocks properly belonging to the said two Quarters ranging and running at large within the New fence; my Executors keeping the said Quarters and

Plantations in good order, and repair and delivering up the same accordingly at the respective expiration of the times aforesaid or when the Crops then growing thereon are finished, unto my said Son George Mason or his heirs, But if my said Son George Mason should die under Age and unmarried it is my will and Desire, and I hereby direct and order that all the lands herein devised unto him shall go and descend unto his heir at Law and his Heirs forever, in the same manner as if my said Son George had been in the Actual Possession of the same before his death, and shall not be divided among my residuary Legaties herein after named— Item, I give and bequeath unto my said Son George Mason and his heirs for ever when he arrives to the age of twenty one years, or Marrys, which ever shall first happen, the seven following Slaves, to wit, Alice, Bob Dunk, yellow Dick, Bob the son of Occoquan Nell, Peter (the son of Great Sue) Judy and Lucy; together with all the Slaves which shall properly belong to and reside at my two upper Quarters in Dogues Neck Adjoining to the Great Marsh at the time of my Death (Except such of them as may happen be any of the Slaves by name specifically bequeath'd to some of my other children) also all my Stock of horses, Cattle, Sheep & hogs shall properly belong to and be wintered at my said two upper Quarters in Dogues Neck at the time of my death, with all the Plantation Utensels and Impliments of Husbandry thereto belonging, also one Fifth part of all my Books, and household furniture in and about my Dwelling house. But if my said Son George Mason shou'd die before he comes of Age, and unmarried, then and in that case it is my will and desire; and I hereby direct and order that all the Slaves as well as all the personal Estate herein before bequeath'd him shall be equally divided between my other surviving sons, and for that purpose shall remain in the common Stock Until my other sons respectively come of Age or Marry. Item, I give and bequeath unto my said Son George Mason & his heirs for ever all my stock in the Ohio Company as a member thereof, together with my share and part of all the said Company's Lands; but whatever Ballance (if any at the time of my Death) appears by my Books of Acct. to be due from me to the said Ohio Company is to be paid out of the Common Stock of my Estate, in the same manner as any other debts. — I also give and bequeath unto my said Son George Mason my Gold Watch, which I commonly wear, also a large Silver Salver, which being an old peice of family plate, I desire may remain unaltered. And I confirm unto him his right and title to a negro man named Dick, given him by his Grand father Mr. Eilbeck; and likewise his right and title to two Negroe men named Tom and Liberty exchanged with him by me for two other negroe men given him by his Grand Mother Mrs. Eilbeck; also to a large silver Bowl given him by my Mother, in which all my



children have been christened, and which I desire may remain in the family unaltered for that purpose.— And whereas my Son George will soon be of Age, and if I shou'd happen to die during the minority of my other children, they will probably live with him, and he may not chuse to charge his Brothers and Sisters with their Board; Altho' it must put him to a considerable trouble and Expence; Then and in that case therefore I give unto my said Son George, whilst my children live with him as aforesaid, the right and privilege of taking in any year from any of my Quarters, whilst They remain in the Common Stock, such Quanty of provisions for his family's use; and also of employing such and so many of my house servants in his family, as he and my other Executor shall judge reasonable and necessary for the above mentioned purpose, and adequate to the Expence and trouble thereby occasioned; without being accountable for the same.

Item, I give and devise unto my son William Mason and his heirs for ever, when he arrives at the age of Twenty one years or Marry's which ever shall first happen, all my lands upon chickamucson and mattawoman Creeks in Charles County in the province of Maryland, that is to say all my land in christian Temple Mannor, and my Tract of land called stump Neck (formerly called Dogues Neck) with two hundred Acres of land thereto adjoining, and included in the same orinal Patent; Excepting and reserving to my Exors. the right and privilege of retaining and keeping in their hands, as part of the common Stock of my Estate, for the benefit of my Younger children until all my sons come of Age, the last mentioned Tract of Land called Stump Neck, with the said two hundred Acres of Land thereto adjoining and of keeping a Quarter thereon, and working the same number of hands for the purpose aforesaid as are worked on the same at the time of my Death. I also give and devise unto my said son William Mason and his heirs for ever, in like manner a Tract of one hundred and fifty acres of Land (whereon George Adams now lives) near Port Tobacco in the said County and Province; the same Being one moiety of a Tract of Land called Partnership; And if my sd. son William shou'd die before he comes of Age and unmarried, then and in that case I give and devise all the above mentioned Lands upon Chickamuxon and mattawoman Creeks unto my Youngest Son Thomas Mason and his heirs for ever; And the above mentioned Tract of Land near Port Tobacco (upon which George Adams lives) I give and devise unto my son Thomas Mason and his heirs for ever.

Item, I give and devise unto my said son William Mason and his heirs for ever, when he arrives at the Age of twenty one years or Marry's, which ever shall first happen, the two following slaves, to-wit, Milly (the Daughter of Kate) and Sampson (the son of Mrs. Eilbeck's

Bess) also one fifth part of all my Books, and household furniture in or about my Dwelling house. I also give and bequeath unto my said son William my silver Watch, which I formerly used to wear, and I confirm upon him his right and title to a Negro lad named Cato given him by his Grandfather Mr. Eilbeck.

Item. I given and devise unto my son Thomson Mason and his heirs forever, when he arrives at the Age of Twenty one years, or Marry's which ever shall first happen, all my Lands in Thompson's Patent (repatented in my own name) Between Dogues run and the South Branch of Little hunting Creek; excepting and reserving to my Executors the right and privilege of settling two Quarters with eight working hands at each upon such parts thereof as they shall think fit, unless the said Quarters shall be settled thereon by me in my life time, and of retaining and keeping in their hands one of the said quarters so settle by me or them with land thereto adjoining sufficient to work the hands belonging to the same, as part of the common stock untill all my sons come of Age, I also give and devise unto my said son Thomson Mason and his heirs for ever, in like manner all my Lands upon both sides the North Brach of little Hunting Creek contained in Thomas Stafford's Patent, Thomas Sandifords Patent (repatented in my own name) George Brent's Sale to William Bourne, and part of Ball's Patent which I bought of Mr. Sampson Darrell; Also all my lands in Masons and Heryford's Patent upon the Branches of Dogue run and Accotinck, being one moiety of the Land devised by my Grandfather Colo. George Mason Dec'd. to his Daughters Elizabeth and Rosanna; also a Small Tract of Land contiguous thereto, originally Patented by one William Williams, and purchased by my Father of Winifred Ball Daughter and heir at Law to the said Williams, it being the land whereon Edward Violett lived, also a Tract of about four hundred Acres of Land Patented by my Father upon the upper side of Dogues Run, adjoining to Mathew's Patent and in general I give and devise unto my said son Thomson Mason and his heirs forever, when he arrives at the Age of Twenty one years or Marry's which ever shall first happen (except as before excepted) all my lands upon the Branches and Waters of Dogue run and little hunting Creek in Fairfax County being in the whole about three Thousand three hundred Acres. And if my said son Thomson Mason shou'd died under age and unmarried then and in that case, I give and devise all the above mentioned Lands in Thompsons Patent, between Dogues run and the South Branch of little hunting Creek (being about thirteen hundred Acres) and also all of the above mentioned Lands in Stafford's and Sandiford's Patent in George Brent's Sale to William Bourne, and part of Ball patent which I Bought of Mr. Sampson Darrell being about seven hundred

Acres upon both sides the North Branch of little hunting Creek, unto my youngest son Thomas Mason & his heirs forever. But it is my will and desire, and I hereby direct and order that all the other lands herein before devised unto my son Thomson Mason shall, if he die under Age and unmarried as aforesaid, go and descend unto my eldest son and heir George Mason and his heirs for ever, in the same manner as if my son Thomson had been in the actual possession of the same before his death.—

Item. I give and devise unto my said son Thomson Mason and his heirs forever, when he arrives at the age of twenty one years, or Marry's which ever shall first happen, the two following Slaves, to wit. Sally (the Daughter of Lucy, and Joe (the son of Mrs. Eilbeck's Bess) also one fifth part of all my Books and household furniture in and about my Dwelling house; and I confirm unto my said Son Thomson Mason his right and Title to a Negro lad named Cupid, given him by his Grand father Mr. Eilbeck.—

Item. I give and devise unto my son John Mason and his heirs forever, when he arrives at the Age of twenty one year or marry's which ever shall first happen, all my lands adjoining to and near rock Creek Ferry upon Potomack River; that is to say the lands contained in Thomas Ousley's, Thomas Gowing's and my Father's Patent (all repatented in my own name) with the lands I purchased of Ellis and Bradie, and of Daniel Jennings and a small Tract of Land I took up as vacant Land between my other Tracts; and in general all my Lands between four mile run and the lower falls of Potomack river, in the Parish and County of Fairfax, being about two thousand acres, I also give and devise unto my said son John Mason and his heirs forever, in like manner, my Island in Potomack river, opposite the mouth of rock Creek, which I hold under a patent from the lord proprietor of Maryland by the name of Barbadoes, I also give and devise unto my said son John Mason and his heirs forever in like manner, all my Lands upon and between the main South run of Accotinck and the branches of Difficult run, in the upper end of Truro Parish in Fairfax County, patented by my Father, with a small Tract of Land thereto adjoining, patented in my own name, being together about two Thousand Acres. And if my said son John Mason shou'd die under Age, and unmarried, then and in that case I give and devise all the above mentioned Lands between four mile run and the lower falls of Potomack river, together with my before mentioned Island of Barbadoes, unto my Youngest son Thomas Mason and his heirs for ever. But it is my Will and Desire, and I hereby direct and Order, that all the other Lands herein before devised unto my said—John Mason, upon and between the main south Branch of Accotinck and the branches of Difficult run shall if he die under Age and unmarried as aforesaid, go and descend

upon my Eldest Son and heir George Mason and his heirs for ever, in the same manner as if my said son John Mason had been in the actual possession of the same before his Death.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son John Mason and his heirs for ever when he arrives at the Age of twenty one years or marry's which ever shall first happen, the two following Slaves, to wit, Harry (the son of house Poll) and Peg (the Daughter of Chloe) also one fifth part of all my Books and household furniture in and about my Dwelling house.—

Item. I give and Devise unto my youngest son Thomas Mason and his heirs for ever, when he arrives at the Age of Twenty one years, or marry's which ever shall first happen, all my land upon the lower side of Occoquan River, Patented by my Father and Colo. Robinson, together with the right and benefit of keeping the Ferry over Occoquan from both sides of the river; which has been vested in me and my ancestors from the first settlement of this part of the Country and long before the Land there was taken up or patented; also all my land upon the branches of Neabscoe, purchased by my Father or Mrs. Ann West; also all my land upon Potomack River in Cock Pit Point Neck; also all my Land upon the upper side of Chappawamsic Creek; and in general all my Lands in the County of Prince William. I also give and devise unto my said Son Thomas Mason and his heirs forever, when he arrives at the age of Twenty one years or marry's which ever shall first happen, all my Lands adjoining to each other upon Goose Bay and Potomack river in Charles County in the province of Maryland, being four different Tracts; the lower most called St. Benidicts, Originally granted to Bennett Marchegay, the next called Mason's Fields Patented by my Mother Mrs. Ann Mason; the next (interfearing with Masons fields) a Tract of one hundred and fifty Acres, without any particular name, whereon Henry Fletcher formerly lived, who purchased the same of Henry Aspinall, to whom it was Originally granted; and the upper called Fletchers- Addition, Originally granted to the said Henry Fletcher; and in general all my Lands between Chickamuxon Creek and Goose Bay in the said County and province. And if my said son Thomas Mason shou'd die under age and unmarried; then and in that case I give and devise all the above mentioned Lands between Chickamuxon Creek and Goose Bay in Charles County in the Province of Maryland unto my son William Mason and his heirs forever. But it is my Will and desire, and I hereby, direct and order that all the other Lands herein before Devised unto my said son Thomas Mason in the County of Prince William and Colony of Virginia, together with the right and benefit of keeping Occoquan Ferry shall if he die under age and unmarried as aforesaid, go and descend unto my eldest son and heir George Mason and his heirs for ever, in the

same manner as if my said son Thomas Had been in the actual possession of the same before his death.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son Thomas Mason and his heirs forever, when he arrives at the age of Twenty one years or Marrys which ever shall first happen, the two following slaves, to-wit, Jack (the son of House Nell) and Daphne (the Daughter of Dinah) also one fifth part of all my Books, and household furniture in and about my Dwelling house. —

Item. I give and bequeath unto my said son Thomas Mason the sum of six hundred pounds Sterling to be paid him when he arrives at the age of twenty one years or Marrys, which ever shall first happen out of my money and debts due to me, and the profits of my Estate; if so much remain in the common stock after the payment of my Debts, and Legacies, the maintenances and education of my children, and the payment of my Dauther's fortunes, and if there is not so much as the said sum of six hundred pounds sterling, then whatever lesser sum there is remaining in the said common Stock.—And least the manner in which I have limited and directed the descent of some of my Lands shou'd occasion any dispute or induce any openion that I intended to entail them; I hereby declare that it is not my intention to entail any part of my Estate upon any of my Children; but to give all and each of my sons, when they respectively come of Age or Marry, an absolute fee simple Estate in all the Lands respectively devised them, and in all such Lands also as any of them may happen to take by the death of any of their brothers, the common legal descent of some of my Lands being herein before altered, only in case any of my sons to whom such Lands are respectively devised shou'd die under Age and unmarried, while their Lands remain'd in the common Stock of my Estate, and had not yet come into their actual possession.—And whereas I hold sundry Tracts of Land in the County of Hampshire in Virginia, and in the County of Frederick in the province of Maryland, near Fort Cumberland, patented in my name in Trust for the Ohio Company, I authorize and direct my Executors to convey the same by such Deeds as counsel learned in the law shall advise (with special warranty only against my heirs, and all claiming under me) unto the said Ohio Company, upon their paying the ballance of my bond with the interest thereon, due to Mr. Bladen, or to Mr. Tasker's Executors for the purchase of part of the said Lands, so that the said bond may be taken up and cancelled, and my Estate indemnified therefrom; excepting and reserving unto my eldest son George Mason and his heirs for ever my part and share of and in the said Lands as a member of the said Ohio Company.—

Item, All the remaining part of my slaves, with their increase, Stocks



of all kinds, and Money, and debts, due to me, Crops profits and all other personal Estate whatsoever in the common stock not herein otherwise disposed of—I give and bequeath unto my four youngest sons, William Thomson, John and Thomas, (whom I make my residuary Legatees) and their heirs for ever, to be equally divided between them, when and as they respectively arrive at the Age of Twenty one Years or marry, which ever shall first happen, And if one or more of my said four youngest sons shou'd die under age and unmarried, then and in that case it is my will and desire and I hereby direct and order, that all the slaves, together with all the stocks, Money or other personal Estate whatsoever bequeathed to such son or sons, or which he or they wou'd have been entitled to upon coming of age or marrying, shall be equally divided between the survivors of all my five sons, George, William, Thomson, John and Thomas, such of them as may happen to be of age or married at the time to receive their part of the same, and the residue to remain in the common stock untill the others respectively come of age, or marry; or shall go to the survivor of my five sons, if only one of them shou'd live to come of age or marry. And if any of my sons or Daughters shou'd happen to marry and die, during the minority of their Brothers or Sisters, leaving a child or children behind them, it is my will and desire and I hereby direct and order that such child or children shall receive the same part or portion of the Estate which the parent or parents wou'd have been entitled to upon the death of any of my sons or Daughters respectively, under age and unmarried as aforesaid.— And whereas there is in my hands as Executor to Mr. William Eilbeck Dec'd. a considerable sum (as will appear by my Account with his Estate) which by his will is bequeathed to and divided among his Grand Children, my children, which I am answerable to them for and have a power of laying out for their benefit; and as I have herein not given much more to each of my said children than their respective shares of his Estate in my hands amounts to but have disposed of both that and my own Estate among them all, in order to make the best provision in my power for them all, and if any of my children were notwithstanding to claim after my death their parts of their said Grand Fathers Estate in my hands, over and above what I have given them, it wou'd occasion much confusion, and alter the disposition which I have herein before made, to the prejudice and injury of some of my children; I do therefore declare that what I have herein before given unto all and each of my said children is inclusive of, and in satisfaction for what was due to them from me as Mr. Eilbeck's Executor, and that the several Devises requests and Legacys herein devised bequeath'd or given to each of my said children are upon express condition of each of them respectively releasing and discharging my Estate and Executors from any claim or demand on Account of the balance due from me to the said Mr. Eilbeck's

Estate and Accounts already settled or to be settled with the Commissary in Maryland; and if any one or more of my said children, when they respectively come of Age, shou'd refuse to release and discharge my Executors accordingly; then and in that case it is my Will and desire, and I hereby direct and Order that all the Estate herein by me given to such child or children shall be forfeited, and shall go to and be equally divided among my other children, and their heirs for ever. And as their are Debts due to me to a considerable amount by Bond, the yearly interest of which will be a great advantage to the common Stock of my Estate, I desire and direct my Executors to continue the said debts upon Interest, either in such hands as they shall be in at the time of my Death, or in such other hands, and upon such other Security as they, in their discretion, shall judge best, untill the money shall be wanting from time to time for any of the purposes by me directed; and likewise to be let out upon Interest such Money as can at any time be spared out of the Profits of my Estate.— I also authorize and direct my Executors to settle a Quarter or Quarters upon my Land between Dogues run and the south branch of little hunting Creek as herein before mentioned (unless the same shall have been setlet by me before my death) when they shall think it most for the Interest of my Estate so to do; as also upon any of the other Lands herein devised to either of my three youngest sons, Thomson, John or Thomas, either with any slaves that can be spared from my other Quarters or Plantations, or with Slaves to be purchased by them for that purpose, with any Money that can be spared out of the common Stock of my Estate, with out interfering with my Daughter's fortunes, or with the money bequeath'd unto my youngest son Thomas; all which quarters and Slaves are to be considered as part of the common Stock for the purpose before expressed. I likewise empower and direct my Executors to erect Marble Tomb Stones over the Graves of my honoured Father and Mother, and my Dear wife; if the same is not done by me in my life time. And that no dispute or difficulty may arise to my Executors or my children about the manner in which that part of my Estate given to my residuary Legatees is to be divided among them. I hereby declare it to be my will and intention that when each or either of them comes of Age or Marrys, he is to receive his part or portion thereof, as it stands at such time respectively (always having regard to and reserving a Sufficient sum of my Money and debts still in the common Stock to pay the Money that may thereafter be due to any of my Daughters for their fortunes, as well as the Money bequeath'd to my youngest son Thomas Mason) so that any of them after having received and with drawn their parts from the common Stock, are not to be entitled to any share of the subsequent increase or profits thereof and consequently not to any of the Slaves

that may afterwards be born or purchased, nor liable to any loss that may happen therein; except such part of the common stock as may happen afterwards to fall to them by the death of some of their Brothers or Sisters, Yet the fortunes herein given to my Daughters in Money are to be secured to them notwithstanding all events; and in case of any deficiency in their said fortunes by failure of Securitys, or any other inevitable Accident, the same is to be made good, in equal Proportion by all my residuary Legatees, as well those who had before, as those who had not received their parts out of the common Stock. And I appoint my good friends the Revd. Mr. James Scott, the Revd. Mr. Lee Massey, Mr. John West Junr. Col. George Washington and Mr. Alexander Henderson, (when ever it shall be necessary) to make such estimation division and allotment to and among my several residuary Legatees; and it is my Will and desire, and I hereby direct and Order that such Estimation Devision and Alotment as they or any three of them, shall from time to time make, and give under their hands and Seals shall to all intents and purposes whatsoever be conclusive and binding upon my said residuary Legatees and their heirs. I hope they will be so charitable as not to refuse undertaking this trouble for the sake of a friend who when living wou'd chearfully have done them any good office in his Power.— I recommend it to my sons, from my own experiance in Life, to prefer the happiness of independance & a private Station to the troubles and vexations of Public Business; but if either their own inclination or the necessaty of the times shou'd engage them in Public Affairs, I charge them, on a Fathers Blessing never to let the motives of private Interest or ambition induce them to betray, nor the terrors of Poverty and disgrace, or the fear of danger or of death deter them from Asserting the liberty of their Country, and endeavouring to transmit to their posterity those Sacred rights to which themselves were born.

I release and remit unto my Brother Thomson Mason and his heirs for ever, a certain debt of three hundred & ten pounds four shillings and five pence  $3/4$  sterling and nine pounds twelve shillings and four pence Currency due to me on Account of Money advanced for him many years ago, while he was in England, for which it was never my intention to make him answerable, as will appear by an entry to that purpose in my own hand writing annexed to the Account in my Book. And whereas my brother is indebted to me a further considerable sum on account of a Protested Bill of Exchange drawn by him and of a Bond I paid for him to Mrs. Bronaugh's Estate, I desire and direct my Executors not to bring any suit against him for the recovery of the said Debt, but to wait untill he can conveniently pay the same.

I give and bequeath unto Mrs. Heath, the wife of Thomas Heath of Stafford County the sum of forty Shillings Sterling, in first cost of Goods, a year, during her life to be laid out for her in necessarys



for her own particular use, And if her son Mr. Richard Hewitt, my old school fellow and acquaintance from my childhood, Shou'd unfortunately be reduced to necessitous circumstances, I desire and direct my Executors to Supply him with necessarys for his support and maintenance out of my Estate: And I particularly recommend this care to my children if it shou'd be necessary after they come of Age.— I give to Mr. John Moncure a Mourning ring of three Guineas Value, which I desire him to wear in memory of my Esteem for my much lamented friend his Deceased Father. I desire my old and long tried friends the Revd. Mr. James Scott and Mr. John West Junr. each of them to accept of a mourning ring of the same value.

I leave to my friend and relation the Revd. Mr. Lee Massey a Mourning ring of the same Value: And I intreat the favor of him to advise and assist my Executors in the direction and management of my affairs; I am incouraged to request this of him from the experience I have had myself of his good Offices that way; and I am satisfied that both he and my worthy friend Mr. Cockburn will excuse the trouble I now give them, when they reflect upon the necessity that dying men are under of thus imploying the care and kindness of the living; which must also one day be their own case; and as the most acceptable acknowledgment I can make them, I desire them to receive out of the common Stock of my Estate the sum of ten pounds a year, to be laid out by them in private charitys, upon such as they shall Judge worthy objects.—

I also give to my cousin Mrs. Cockburn a mourning ring of the same value; And I desire her and my cousin Miss Bronaugh and Mr. Cockburn to accept of a Suit of Mourning each.—

Lastly I appoint my eldest son George Mason and my good friend Mr. Martin Cockburn Executors of this my last Will and Testament, and Guardians to my children, untill they respectively come of Age.

And it is my Will and desire, and I hereby direct and order that no securitys shall be required of them by the Court, but only their own Bonds taken for the performance. In Witness whereof I have to this my said last Will and Testament all in my own hand writing, and contained in fifteen Pages, set my hand and affixed my seal this 20th day of March in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy three.—

G.: MASON (SEAL)

Signed & Sealed & Published & declared  
to be the last Will and Testament of

Mr. George Mason, in our presence &  
Subscribed by us in his presence.  
Gust. Scott, Elizabeth Bronaugh,  
Ann Cockburn, John West Jun. Robt.  
Graham, John Davidson.

At a Court cont'd. and for Fairfax County 16th October, 1792.  
This will was presented in Court by George Mason one of the Executors therein named who made oath thereto and the same being proved by the oaths of Ann Cockburn and Robert Graham is admitted to record and the said Excor. having perform'd what the laws require in such cases a Certificate is granted for him for obtaining a probate thereof in due form.—

Test. P. Wagoner, Cl.

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State of Virginia  
County of Fairfax, To wit:

I, Thomas P. Chapman, Jr., County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, the same being a Court of Probate and of Record and having a Seal, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Will of George Mason, as the same appears of record in the Will Book F, No. 1, page 95.

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at Fairfax, Virginia, this 29th day of April, 1959.

THOMAS P. CHAPMAN, JR., Clerk  
Circuit Court of Fairfax County.

State of Virginia  
County of Fairfax, To wit:

I, Paul E. Brown, Judge of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, the same being a Court of Probate and of Record, do hereby certify that Thomas P. Chapman, Jr., whose genuine signature is signed to the foregoing and hereunto annexed certificate was, at the date thereof, and is now, the Clerk of said Court, duly elected, qualified and authorized under the laws of said state to give the same, and that all his official acts as such Clerk are entitled to full faith and credit; and that the said certificate is in due form of law and by the proper officer.

Given under my hand this 29th day of April, 1959.

—PAUL E. BROWN, Judge.

## Sully Notes

*By R. E. Wagstaff*

The earliest account we have of Sully comes from a trapper named Cain who spent the winter of 1706-1707 trapping beaver on the stream that still bears his name. Although scouts had been through the area many times, Cain is probably the first white man to spend a winter here, the area still being under Indian control. His trappers stories must have been interesting for some time later "Captain" Henry Lee (1691-1747) wrote a letter repeating the descriptions Cain had given him of the land and the "poysen fields," that is, land free from trees. Such land did not require the back-breaking task of removing the trees before planting a crop.

Later, better informed persons decided the fields were not "poysen" at all but had been burned over each year for so many years by the agriculturally minded Virginia Indians, that trees had not yet begun to grow on the fields again. Some of the early explorers wrote of "kine" grazing on the fields, which is exactly why the Indians burned the fields each year. It is possible these "kine" were buffalo but it is more probable they were elk or deer.

Cain described his camp as a pole lodge on a southern slope with pear trees growing nearby and a fine spring at the foot of the slope, the site of an old Indian village. Such a site still exists just west of Sully on Cain's Branch. One of the best springs in the area is at the foot of the southern slope, pear trees still grow there and Indian heating stones are still found there although many of them have been picked up in the 250 years since Cain wintered there. Flint chips from an Indian "arrow head factory" are there.

Some years later, possibly in 1712 when "Captain" Henry Lee had attained his twenty-first birthday, he took a grant from Lord Fairfax for a tract encompassing all the watershed of Cain's Branch and lying between Flat Lick and Salisbury Plain Run, now Cub Run.

This grant must have been invalid. Perhaps it was allowed to lapse when the Indians reinvaded the area. At any rate, "Captain" Henry Lee took a grant to much the same land on January 25, 1725. (Northern Neck Deed Book A-371) See also, A-445, which Lee later purchased from the sons of Thomas Walker.

"Captain" Henry Lee did not live at Sully but in Westmoreland County. In the Lord Fairfax grant the name Sully was not used and the land was described as being in Stafford County for this area was

a part of Stafford then. "Captain" Henry Lee left Sully, still not called by that name, to his son Henry Lee of Leesylvania. Henry Lee of Leesylvania did not live at Sully but continued to live at Leesylvania although it is probable he established "quarters" in the vicinity of Sully as did other families who continued to live even farther away than Leesylvania.

Henry Lee of Leesylvania in his will, Prince William Will Book C, page 373, leaves, "my lands in Loudoun," for Sully was then a part of Loudoun, being returned to Fairfax in 1798, to his sons Richard Bland and Theoderick. Richard Bland being the older of the two, was to have his choice of which half he wanted. He chose the northern half where the Sully house now stands.

In reading the will one is led to suppose that Richard Bland Lee was at the time of his father's death living on the "lands in Loudoun." It seems he was in possession of some of the slaves left to him in his father's will and he may have had these slaves at Sully at the time of his father's death. Richard Bland Lee was 26 years old at that time. The will was probated at the October term of Court 1787. This will is of interest too, because Henry Lee of Leesylvania spelled phonetically and we can see that he spoke with a Southern accent. He was of sound mind and good "memry" and left his "mention" house to his widow.

In 1788 Richard Bland Lee gave a "three lives lease" to Henson Lewis, Loudoun Deed Book R, page 316. The lease states that it is part of the land left to him by his father and it is in Cameron Parish. One of the requirements of this lease is that a house of certain dimensions be built on the land within seven years. The stone house in the yard at Sully today is such a house as might have been built in compliance with this "lease for lives." The best authorities however believe the stone house is a patent house. If so, its date of construction would be much earlier, say around 1730. It may have been the Lee's "quarters" house. "Garnetting" in the mortar is one of the features of this house shown in photos now in the Library of Congress.

Richard Bland Lee represented Loudoun in the House of Delegates so must have lived somewhere in Loudoun and no place seems so likely as on his father's lands. It is probable he built the undocumented but well authenticated log house during his bachelor days at Sully and there is no doubt it is the "honeymoon cottage" referred to by Liza Collins after her marriage to Richard Bland Lee in 1794.

Richard Bland Lee was northern Virginia's first representative

in Congress, was its representative when Congress met in Philadelphia. He greatly admired the city of Philadelphia and was much interested in the first turnpike in North America, the Lancaster Pike and in Liza Collins who lived out on the Lancaster Pike. Therefore he saw no reason for moving the federal government to the shores of the Potomac when that matter came up in Congress. Nevertheless, Alexander Hamilton, Richard Bland Lee, another Virginia and two Marylanders are credited by the Dictionary of American Biography with making the actual decision to move to the Potomac in a vote-trading deal concerning Assumption.

Richard Bland Lee married Liza Collins, a Quakeress and daughter of one of the leaders in Philadelphia in his day and brought her to the large and good log house, not a log cabin, which stood until about 1870 some 300 yards northeast of the present Sully house.

Liza preserved a portion of a letter written by her father to her mother when he was on a visit to Sully while the Lees were still living in the "honeymoon cottage." Liza probably preserved this part of her father's letter because of the typical "negro mammy" praise heaped on her by one of the old negro women, Eve, and recorded by Mr. Collins. The reverse side of this letter is most interesting in that it gives the dimensions of the new house then under construction and nearing completion. It is quoted below:

" . . . . They are obliged to go more than three miles to get sand to make mortar for the new house, which is nearly all done but the Plastering and Painting and the Piazza across the front. It is a very clever house, has an elegant hall 12 feet wide and a handsome staircase and two very pretty rooms on the first floor. One is 19 by 20 feet and the other 20 by 17 feet. There is two, large and one small chamber in the second story and one handsome and large chamber in the third or garrett story, nearly square with a large window in the gable and another good lodging room besides. Indeed it is and will be a very neate handsome house.

"The Kitchen is about 60 feet from the house and is a finer one than is in twenty miles square and it is in fact a Kitchen and Laundry with very handsome chimney with cranes in them. Indeed it is properly speaking a complete Double Kitchen or Kitchen and Washhouse and on each end of the" This is the end of the portion of the letter preserved.

The "Double Kitchen" still stands in very much its original condition at Sully, The "very handsome chimney with cranes in them"

still attracts favorable comment today. The kitchen sink, chiseled out of one stone, is still intact but not in place today.

Further proof of the date of construction is contained in the Shippen Papers in the Old Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress. A portion of one of these letters is quoted in "Lee Chronical." This letter is dated October 24, 1797 from Thomas Lee Shippen to his father and is headed Sully.

"This is the seat of Mr. R. B. Lee in Loudoun County, 27 miles from Alexandria, 25 miles from Dumfries and 50 miles from Fredericksburg. We arrived here yesterday from Leesburg before dinner and the great importunity of this delightful family has persuaded us to pass this day with them, when it promised to be like yesterday, a fine one. It has turned out a very bad one and it rained harder than I have seen it rain these many months. Happy travelers to have such a shelter from the storm. I would fain give you some idea of the elegance in which this kinsman has settled himself to make amends for the caprice of his fellow citizens - - -. The house is new, built by himself about three years ago, and lately furnished in Philadelphia with every article of silverplate, mahogany, Wilton carpeting and glassware that can be conceived of that you will find in the very best furnished houses in Philadelphia, parlours and chambers completely equipped with every luxury as well as convenience.

"Mr. Lee's family is composed of his lady and son three months old. Portia and Cornelia Lee, who have made choice of him, as you may have heard, on the death of their Uncle Frank, as their guardian and the young Turberville who is a branch of our family." End of quotation from Shippen letter.

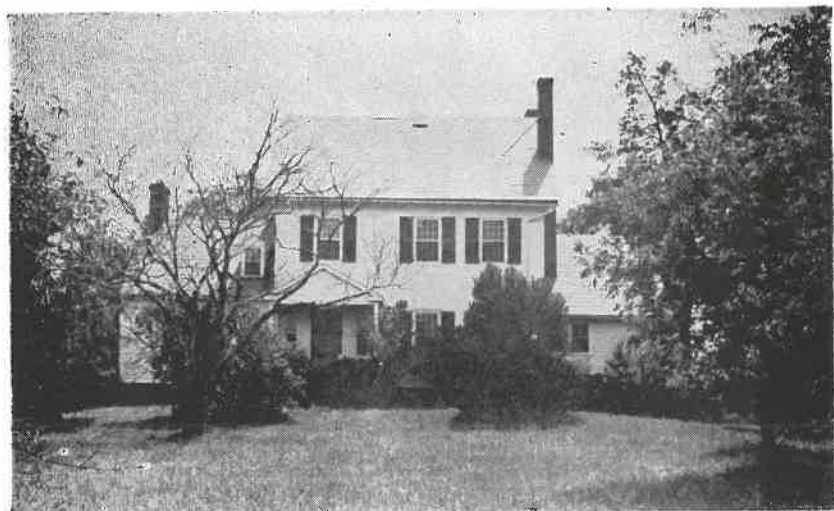
Portia and Cornelia Lee owned and during the lifetime of their Uncle Frank, lived at Green Spring on the James River. Portia and Cornelia grew to young womanhood at Sully. Cornelia's name and the date 1803 are still on a windowpane there. After her marriage, Portia lived in Alexandria and Cornelia spent a part of her time with her older sister. Many letters from these two sisters to Mrs. Lee at Sully are still in existence and indicate that they still regard Sully as home. For instance, Cornelia writes Mrs. Lee to send by the first passing, the pink ribbon in the left hand drawer of the writing desk. While many of these letters say they are intended for Mrs. Lee's eyes alone, they make very interesting reading for anyone. Many of them tell of sickness and deaths, especially among the very young children, but there are happy letters too.

The Lee Society has more than 100 typed copies of letters to Mrs.





Front view of "Sully"



Rear view of "Sully"





Lee at Sully from the White House, Mt. Vernon, Woodlawn Hope Park, Ossian Hall, Ravensworth, Arlington, Chantilly, Williamsburg, Green Spring and other well known homes.

Liza Collins was a bridesmaid of Dolly Madison at her first marriage and a lifelong confidante and correspondent. In an exchange of letters between Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Madison when the Madisons were leaving the White House at the end of Mr. Madison's term the "seclusion of Sully" is mentioned, and Sully is secluded today as then.

Richard Bland Lee was a leader in the building of the second turnpike in America, the Little River Pike, extending across Sully. Although not a resident there, he was one of the "twelve Gentlemen" who "set up" the town of Middleburg. He was a leader in the long continued but unsuccessful attempt to "erect" the County of Cameron out of lower Loudoun and upper Fairfax. Failing in the attempt to "erect" the County of Cameron, Mr. Lee was one of those who worked for the cutting off of lower Loudoun and joining it back to Fairfax again. This took Sully out of Loudoun and put it back in Fairfax County. The same bill that provided for the transfer of so much of lower Loudoun to Fairfax also provided for the setting up of Fairfax Court House in its present location on the Little River Turnpike.

Stone from Richard Bland Lee's quarry on Aquia Creek was used in the building of the central part of the Capitol building and in the White House. A small amount of this Aquia Creek stone is used in Sully today.

General and Mrs. Washington were the godparents of Richard Bland Lee Junior, born at Sully, and were guests at Sully at his christening. A lock of the General's hair was given to the little child by Mrs. Washington and is still in the possession of descendants.

The children of Richard Bland Lee and of Francis Lightfoot Lee who died at Sully are still buried in the family burial plot there. The tombstones are no longer in place but are believed to be in the railroad cut across Sully where they are said to have been thrown about 1880.

Bushrod Washington of Mt. Vernon was principal attorney for Richard Bland Lee and drew many mortgages on Sully and other property. One in Fairfax Deed Book J-1 page 257 values the household and kitchen furniture and goods at Sully at \$1600.00 and enumerates 32 slaves giving the skills of some of them, as "George, a blacksmith, Thornton, a cook" etc. One little entertaining feature of this mortgage is that these slaves were mortgaged to the Reverend Maffatt of the Episcopal Church. Much of the furniture mentioned in this mort-

gage is still in existence, some of it owned by descendants and is available for refurnishing Sully as of yesteryear. Some of it would have to be purchased. Sully has been fortunate here as in every respect in that it has almost always been in good hands.

During the years when Richard Bland Lee was giving so many mortgages he was appointed Sheriff of Fairfax County. It is probable the two small offices still at Sully were built then.

On February 1, 1811, Richard Bland Lee sold Sully, Fairfax Deed Book L-2 page 144, to his nephew Francis Lightfoot Lee and as usual Bushrod Washington drew the deed. Francis Lightfoot Lee, son of Richard Henry Lee, was a graduate of Harvard and of Princeton and one of the leading legal lights. Unfortunately, some six years later he was declared a lunatic and Richard Bland Lee was appointed his guardian. It appears he continued to live at Sully for many years although he is stated to be in Philadelphia in at least one report. It appears that his family grew up at Sully. Many items in the records at Fairfax indicate this; "Fifteen cents to Aunt Susie for knitting socks for the children," for instance.

For twenty odd years his guardians filed at Fairfax detailed inventories and accounts. From these one can get an accurate picture of life at Sully 140 years ago. In every inventory one pillow slip is mentioned, sometimes described as one linen pillow slip, but never more and never less than one. The number of bolster covers varied from year to year. Apparently this pillow slip was treasured too highly to be used. Some of the linen pillow slips used by Mrs. Richard Bland Lee are still in the hands of descendants today. The much inventoried pillow slip may have been one given by Mrs. Richard to Mrs. Francis.

Francis Lightfoot Lee's oldest daughter brought action in court which led on November 22, 1830 to the sale of Sully by the Commissioners of Francis Lightfoot Lee. William Swartwout was the purchaser.

Swartwout is said to have been a pirate and an admiral in the Texas navy and to have been arrested here, turned over to England and hanged as a pirate there. The State Archivist of Texas says there is no record of William Swartwout as an admiral in the Texas navy but that several members of the Swartwout family in New York were closely associated with land speculation schemes in East Texas in the 1830's and 1840's.

A search of death records in Somerset House in London, records of hangings in several old courts and the death notices in London

papers of appropriate dates, do not show the death of any Swartwout in England from hanging or other causes. Home Office, Foreign Office and Scotland Yard records were not open to the public.

In 1940 when insulation was being installed in the Sully roof, a pair of epaulettes was found stowed away behind a rafter. At first it was thought they might have belonged to the pirate. Authorities on naval insignia at the Smithsonian identified them as a type in use for a very brief period only, which period did not fall within Swartwout's ownership but did fit in with Francis Lightfoot Lee's son, Samuel Phillips Lee, born and raised at Sully. He rose from an Annapolis cadet to admiral. It is probable he left them behind on one of his trips home.

Swartwout had no family but came to Sully from Mississippi with a great retinue of servants. He lived in seclusion, making trips lasting for weeks or months, from time to time. Death, whether from hanging or otherwise, ended his ownership after about three years. His Commissioners sold Sully, (Fairfax Deed Book K-3 page 19) to Jacob Haight, a Quaker, also from Dutchess County, New York where Sully had been advertised by the Commissioners.

Sully house and a part of the land became a wedding present to one of the Haight girls, Maria when she married James P. Barlow. (Fairfax Deed Book K-4 page 462). Jacob Haight had built another house on a part of Sully in which he then lived.

An order from General Beauregard is still in the possession of the Haight family and is quoted below:

Headquarters 1st Corps A. P.  
Near Centerville. Nov. 25th 61

Until otherwise decided, the forage in the Sully farms  
(Haight) will not be taken for the use of the troops.

By Command of Genl Beauregard.  
Lt. Adj. Genl.

Jacob Haight and his wife were buried in the old Lee burying ground at Sully when they died. Later their bodies were moved to the Fairfax Cemetery.

Conrad Shear, a "49er" who made his money in the California gold rush was the next owner of Sully. Conrad Shear also came originally from Dutchess County, New York. It is generally believed that either Haight or Shear built the present porch at Sully since it is like one on a house in Dutchess County. It seems unlikely it is

the piazza referred to by the elder Mr. Collins in his letter of 1794. It is believed Shear built the present kitchen.

The east wing of Sully, while definitely an addition and not mentioned by Mr. Collins in his letter, is believed by George Worthington of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to be about the same age as the original house.

There is a picture in the Library of Congress taken about 1890-1900 of Conrad Shear and some of his family sitting on the porch at Sully. This picture also shows the "Whistling Walk," then standing, leading from the yard kitchen to the house. Today the roof over the west steps is the only part of the "Whistling Walk" remaining. It has its latticework on the north side just as the other part of the walk had.

About 1912 the Shear family sold Sully to William Eads Miller, who sold to King H. Poston, who sold to Walter Thurston, then ambassador to Mexico. The Thurstons installed modern heating and plumbing but did not alter the existing house.

Sully has never been rebuilt or altered. It is original and not restoration. The outside boards are original and in good condition. Almost everything inside is original, floors, doors, staircase, mantels and trim. Very little has been changed. The room arrangement is still just as described by Mr. Collins in 1794. Sully has been fortunate in that it has almost always been owned by people who were able to maintain it and who did not "modernize" it.

On September 24, the Marquis Patrizi of Italy, a great great grandson of the builder, asked the Italian Embassy about his ancestral home. They, through the Lee Society of America, asked permission for him to visit Sully. He took a genuine interest in the house and asked many questions. Perhaps he was a little disappointed that Sully lacks the impressive driveway that leads up to many of our fine houses. The present entrance is not the original. Liza Collins' Quaker point of view kept the original driveway very simple although it was rather extensive.

These few notes do not begin to tell the story of Sully. They are only intended to whet the appetite of some competent writer. Most of the things known about Sully can be documented. Deeds, inventories, letters, are all available in profusion and all interesting.

Sully is 500 feet inside the Chantilly airport. Now that Sully can no longer remain a private home it is hoped it may give pleasure to many visitors as soon as it can be opened to the public.

## Old Mills In The Centreville Area

*By L. M. Mitchell*

The oldest man-made landmark in the Centreville area is, undoubtedly, the old mill at the junction of Big Rocky and Cub Runs about a mile west of Centreville and a half mile to the south of highway 211. Only a part of the walls remain and it is more than likely that the present structure is not the first erected on that site, but the records indicate that a mill was erected there in 1746 or 1747 and operated there for nearly two hundred years. Some of the earliest roads in the neighborhood led to the mill from the south and the north, and as late as 1830 Lane's Millroad was shown in surveys in the vicinity.

On February 25, 1727, Francis Aubrey, an early explorer of the area now included in Fairfax and Loudoun Counties and an active speculator in frontier land, received a patent from the proprietor for 700 acres on "Great Rocky Cedar Run out of Cub . . . beginning near a beaver dam." On March 21, 1732 Aubrey sold that tract and another larger tract of 4,000 acres on Cactoctin Creek in present Loudoun County to John Taylor of Richmond County for 60 pounds sterling and 20,000 pounds of tobacco. Taylor held the tract on Rocky Run for exactly eight years or until March 21, 1740 when he sold it to Willoughby Newton.

During the next ten years Newton, a member of one of the prominent families of Cople Parish in Westmoreland County, acquired some 4,000 acres of land which surrounded, if it did not include, the future site of the town of Centreville and, as far as can be determined, his purchase of the tract on Rocky Run adjoining the great Carter holdings on Bull and Cub Runs was his first considerable acquisition. On September 18, 1740, Newton received a patent from the proprietor for 1,719 acres on Little Rocky Run above and below present Centreville, and by purchases thereafter enlarged and extended his holdings. In 1746, Newton requested the court of Fairfax County to approve his erection of a "water mill on Great Rocky Cedar Run" and pursuant to an order of the court twelve persons met at the junction of Great Rocky and Cedar Runs on August 20 of that year. After being "sworn by Andrew Hutchison, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace," they "viewed and examined the land mentioned in the order" and "valued same at five shillings current money." They further reported, "We also viewed the land adjacent thereto on both sides of the run which may be affected or laid under water by building such mill and find that it will not be any prejudice to any person or persons whatever, the lands joining on the said Run being very stony and much

broken and no timber or any houses." Eleven persons, including James E. Lane, signed the report which was approved by the court.

While it is probable that Newton, who seems to have been a man of action, proceeded immediately thereafter with the erection of his mill, there is no way of establishing the date on which it began operation as a neighborhood grist mill. Sometime prior to 1763 Newton gave the mill and a small tract of land including it to his daughter Catherine who had married William Jett. It may be assumed that Jett operated the mill for a short period prior to his death since he was active in the neighborhood in 1763 and built a store on the old Mountain Road passing through the settlement on Rocky Run called Newgate. Jett died sometime prior to 1769 and his wife, Catherine, then married John Lane of Westmoreland County who, apparently, was a brother of the James Lane mentioned above, one of the first settlers in this vicinity. The records seem to indicate that James Lane operated or supervised the mill for Newton and Jett, but his principal occupation was the supervision of Robert Carter's great estate in Prince William, Fairfax, and Loudoun Counties.

On March 20, 1763, James Lane bought seven acres "on the east side of Cub Run, opposite to the mouth of Great Rocky Cedar Run" from Willoughby Newton—a tract adjoining the mill site—and on June 9, 1769 James' brother, William Carr Lane, bought four acres including the mill from John Lane, Newton's son-in-law, for ten pounds. The last purchase was described as "all that tract or parcel of land where Captain Willoughby Newton had a mill" which seems to indicate that the original structure had fallen into disuse or, perhaps, been destroyed by fire. If that was the case, it was promptly restored since by his will dated November 4, 1770 William Carr Lane devised "the tract purchased of John Lane and Catherine with my water grist mill" to his son Carr Wilson Lane, and on February 5, 1772 Carr Wilson Lane purchased twenty acres adjoining the mill property from John Lane for two pounds and fifteen shillings, a tract which was described as follows: "beginning on Rocky Run just above the Mill dam of Captain William Carr Lane, deceased, thence down the run and just below the race of said mill thence up and near the mill trench to the power head of said mill."

During his lifetime Carr Wilson Lane acquired a number of tracts of land surrounding Centreville, including a second grist mill farther up on Rocky Run at the point where the present road from Centreville to Chantilly now crosses the Run. The Lane family multiplied in the vicinity and were related by marriage to many of the earliest settlers in western Fairfax County. Four Lanes were appointed as trustees of Centreville when that town was laid out in 1792 on land owned



in part by Mary Lane, Presley Carr Lane, and his father-in-law Francis Adams. On August 17, 1791 Carr Wilson Lane and his wife Penelope sold a tract of twenty-four acres "together with the old mill standing thereon and everything thereunto belonging" to Samuel Love for 300 pounds.

Lane's mill can be reached by an old road branching to the south from highway 211 at the old Cub Run Schoolhouse now in use as a church. The approach is through a second growth of pines and cedars standing between outcropping granite boulders that are a peculiar and picturesque mark of the fault that stretches across Fairfax County from Great Falls to Bull Run. The mill stands very close to the junction of the two streams where Rocky Run comes in quietly to join a noisy Cub falling over great boulders in a smaller example of the great falls of the Potomac. The rock outcropping is almost bare of vegetation and only cedars seem to survive in the crevices. As the commission of the court reported in 1746 "the lands joining on the said Run" are "very stony."

The front of the mill and the most of two side walls, containing very large stones stand intact. It was evidently constructed to accommodate the miller's family in the second story since the southwest corner contains the remains of fireplaces on the first and second floors.

The date of erection of the second grist mill in the Centreville area is indicated by an entry in the record of the session of the Fairfax County Court on November 21, 1753 when a petition was received from Daniel Thomas seeking approval of his erection of a mill "on his land on Pope's Head Run." Apparently the mill dam would affect the land of his neighbor since the court ordered the sheriff to "summon a jury and a surveyor to meet on the premises to value land belonging to Leonard Dozier and return the valuation of the same and whether it (the mill) will be to the prejudice of any person." The exact location of this early mill has not been determined but it is likely that it was the first on the site near Clifton on which a grist mill was operated until the early years of the present century.

A third grist mill in the Centreville neighborhood was, apparently, built by William Lane or his son, Carr Wilson Lane, before 1800. The present stone mill on the site is just to the east of the bridge over Big Rocky on the road from Centreville to Chantilly. The old mill dam, about 200 yards east of the highway, has been broken, but the abutments remain and the mill race leading from the dam to the mill has been preserved. Carr Wilson Lane sold the mill property here referred to, to George Britton in 1816, and two years later Britton sold it to James L. Triplett in whose possession it remained until 1866. The mill is

shown on the military maps of 1861 as "Cabell's Mill" and it may, therefore, be presumed that Cabell was operating it for Triplett or leasing it at that time. Cabell bought the mill in 1866 and in due course sold it to Edward Pittman. It passed to Pittman's niece, Caroline Settle, and in 1929 was purchased from her by J. W. Rixey Smith. Smith sold it to Commander Arthur N. Radford, and Radford sold it to David Lawrence, publisher and columnist, who now occupies the restored property.

A fourth grist mill was built on Johnny Moore Creek near the junction of that stream with Bull Run early in the Nineteenth Century, and the small settlement there, which later included a sawmill, came to be known as Union Mills, a name which was applied, before 1850, to the road which led to the Mills from a point on old Braddock Road about a mile east of Centreville. The old Union Mills road, which once ran across Johnny Moore Creek and thence up Pope's Head to the vicinity of Clifton—and in the process crossed Johnny Moore twice and Pope's Head three times—is now closed at a point just northwest of the old mill site. Except for the removal of the larger timber by small sawmills in the region the area on both sides of the old Union Mills road remains today about as it was a hundred years ago, and the traveler on it finds it difficult to believe that he is within twenty-five miles from Washington. General McDowell, in command of the northern forces at the first battle of Bull Run or Manassas, proposed to turn the Confederate right by way of the Union Mills road, but after a personal reconnaissance on July 19, 1861 reported that the road was "too narrow and crooked for so large a force to move over and the distance around too great to permit of it with any safety." By a similar strategy Beauregard in command of Confederate forces proposed to outflank the forces at Centreville by the same road until the fighting at Henry Hill forced a change in his plans.

Sometime prior to 1814 Thomas Blackburn built a mill on his property on Little Rocky Run. The exact location of that mill has not been determined, but apparently, it was north of present highway 658. Evidence of existence of the mill is contained in the record of a conveyance in December 1814 by the heirs of Francis Adams of a tract on Little Rocky Run, described as "beginning at a stone in the mill dam, Blackburn's corner."

The Carter Mill on Catharpin Run, a little above the junction of that stream with Bull Run, was an important enterprise of that branch of the Carter family, which was settled in the neighborhood called Sudley about 1765. The date of the building of the mill has not been ascertained, but it was evidently a mill of some size. Fairfax Harrison refers to it as one of the larger custom mills of northern Virginia, which



at one time drew wheat from a large area to the north and west. The mill was a frame building—at least in the later years of its operation. Only a part of the foundation remains to mark the site, which is just north of the new bridge over Catharpin Creek and about a hundred and fifty yards west of highway 234. Four of the old mill stones are now in use as steps of a house that was erected about 1905 on the foundations of the old Sudley Springs Hotel about 200 feet north of the mill site.

The mill dam was about a half mile upstream from the mill, and the channel of the old mill race is quite apparent except where it has been filled in for building purposes. The old Carter or Sudley Mill has been the western terminus of the Fairfax-Loudoun County line since 1798 when the eastern part of the area, including Centreville, which had been set aside as Loudoun County in 1757, was returned to Fairfax County. During the recent resurvey of the dividing line considerable effort was expended by the surveyors to determine the exact location of the old mill building, which was torn down about 1910.

If the operation of the numerous small grist mills that, in Virginia, marked the fall line of the clear streams flowing from the mountains can be referred to as an industry then milling was the greatest industry, other than agriculture, in Eighteenth Century Virginia. While only a few of the mills built before 1800 were large enough to provide employment for men other than their owners or those who leased them, the output of the many small grist mills was in the aggregate, significant. The few merchant mills, such as George Washington's on Dogue Creek, or Carter's on Catharpin Creek which produced flour for distant markets, were built by the owners of the large plantations on which they were located and were, therefore, adjuncts to the primary agricultural operations. Washington and Jefferson, and others like them, had many discouragements in their efforts to make their milling operations profitable, and not the least of their difficulties grew out of the competition of the many smaller mills that produced cornmeal and flour for neighborhood consumption. Washington endeavored to solve his problem by adding a bakery for the production of ships biscuit to his other enterprises.

Very little cash was involved in the operation of a grist mill. The farmers who brought their corn and wheat left a portion of the meal or flour with the miller to pay for the grinding and he marketed the accumulation of his "toils" as best he could. In a day when little currency was in circulation and its value was uncertain, even the larger mills ground wheat for an agreed-upon portion of the flour and the by-products, such as bran, shorts, and middlings, and no cash was involved in the transaction between the farmer or consignor of the wheat

and the miller. The process by which the increasing crops of wheat in northern Virginia were marketed in the latter half of the Eighteenth Century has been rather vividly described by Fairfax Harrison: "During the third quarter of the century, there were developed at strategic points on the streams flowing out of the highlands . . . those merchant mills whose sites are commemorated . . . The location of these mills determined the revised routes on which the turnpikes were located just as the location of the tobacco warehouses determined the routes of the first roads to Tidewater. The wheat of the Piedmont and the valley was hauled to the mills in great Conestoga wagons drawn by six-horse teams. . . . The roads of old Prince William were gay with beribboned bell teams lurching through unspeakable ruts, their argosies of wheat to water mills that are now no more than names, and then loading again with the export flour which they were to carry to Alexandria." In 1775 fourteen of the twenty-one listed merchants of Alexandria were purchasers of wheat and flour for export.

The operation of a small grist mill was seldom a very profitable venture; it was a means of livelihood for the miller and his family. With a few exceptions the larger mills earned a small return on an investment which was considerable. Perhaps the most detailed records of the troubles of a mill owner are contained in Thomas Jefferson's records and letters. Jefferson's mill, built on the Rivanna River near Charlottesville, never returned his investment. The canal for the mill race cost \$20,000.00 and the mill itself \$10,000.00. Floods, incompetent millers, and the uncertainty of the flour market combined to tax Jefferson's limited financial resources after 1800. Johnathan Shoemaker, an experienced miller, wrote Jefferson on April 24, 1807 to give him some advice: "Although I am sensible that there is some difficulty in starting all new mills to get the stones in proper dress for grinding to suit the texture of the boulting Cloaths, then there is a certain degree of velocity proper for the stones to have, and if they much exceed that point or fall much below it, the flour will not be of the best quality, likewise if the Boults run too fast, too much of the coarse flour will pass through the Cloath and the flour will be Streaky, and on the other hand if they run too slow the Cloath will furr up, the flour will not pass through it, so that from the above Facts thou will concieve there is at least some difficulty in getting a new mill to do as good work as one could wish." Referring to his son who was working for Jefferson as a miller, Shoemaker concluded "he may not be possessed of a small portion of Philosophy which he ought to be to sett a new Mill to work to advantage for a wile."

The equipment of the small grist mills was simple by today's standards, and much of the ironwork was fabricated on the spot by local blacksmiths. The better mill stones were imported from France and

Holland in blocks about a foot square. These were shaped, cemented together with plaster of Paris and bound with iron to make the circular mill stones which were from four to six feet in diameter. As Shoemaker advised Jefferson, the dressing of the mill stones required special skills and "a small portion of philosophy" was helpful.

In a country that had no cities and few towns or villages, the grist mills shared with the taverns recognition as community centers and provided the facilities for public information by official notices posted at the mill, but it is likely that the most interesting news passed by "word of mouth" between the men and boys waiting for their meal and flour. Most of the grists that came to the mill were small, as much could be carried behind a saddle and no more than could be conveniently stored at home safe from the weavils and the rats.

There is a singular attraction for most people about old mills. They are usually found in secluded places on clear small streams, and the ghosts of a more leisurely society are suggested by the ruins. They are likely to create, in those who see them for the first time, a strong urge to acquire and restore the old structures and thus to renew the scene and the signs of a manner of living that only few can now recall. The old mills are the landmarks of the history of a young country, and they seem to preserve the impressions of generations long gone. The journey to the mill that once pleasantly consumed the working day of a man or boy can now be made over the same distance in a matter of minutes. The process by which the farmer's seed wheat got to his table in the form of biscuits was slow, laborious, and revealing. A "small portion of philosophy" was helpful—an ingredient entirely missing in the can of ready-mix on the shelves of the chain store.

Back from the clamorous traffic of the extending concrete highways some of the old grist mills remain, hidden in the tangles of honeysuckle and blackberry bushes and shaded with large trees that have grown out of the stones. The mill wheels have collapsed in the empty races and the old walls seem to preserve a quiet spot against the assault of "developers" that have forgotten that they ever existed.

Nearly two hundred years ago the planters and the small farmers near Newgate waited at Lane's Mill for their meal and flour; a wait less tedious because of news and comment exchanged, and discussions of crops, the weather, and politics. George Washington was fourteen when the mill was built and the settlers in Fairfax County, subjects of a King, could not anticipate a revolution that was thirty years away. What would a local historian give for a record of some of the discussions that took place at the old mill where Great Rocky Cedar Run falls into Cub!

## Drover's Rest

On Old Georgetown-Leesburg Turnpike, near Madeira School

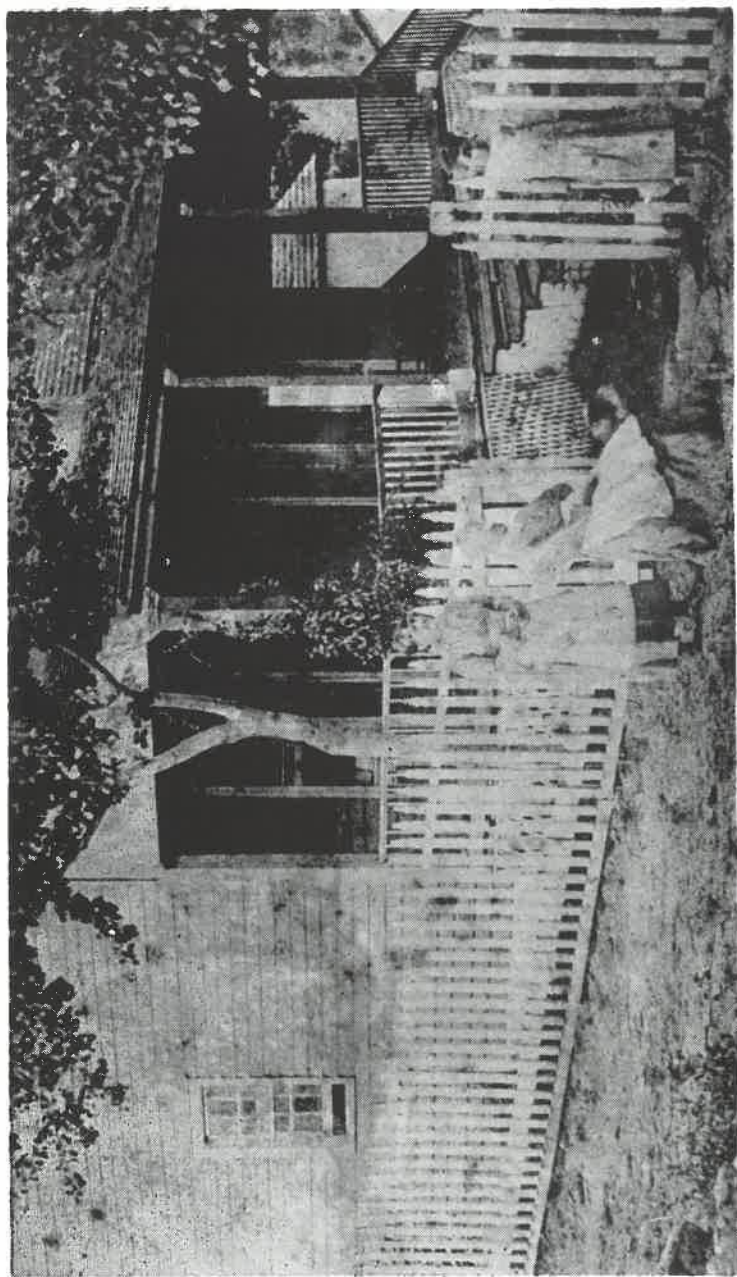
(Copy of a letter from a former owner)

The name, Drover's Rest, commemorates the use of the house as an inn, a convenient overnight stopping place in the journey from the Shenandoah Valley and Leesburg to Georgetown. It is hard to imagine such a place necessary but a little reflection on what country roads were a hundred years ago and on the fact that horses, unlike motors, are subject to mortal weariness will make the picture seem reasonable. What privations the occasional fastidious traveler suffered in so simple a lodging place may be guessed. A willing landlord may have made up to his guest in concern what he lacked in comfort. The infrequent Brahmin no doubt enjoyed a tray upstairs and was not asked to eat his Brunswick stew (rabbit, quail, squirrel, bacon and vegetables) out of the common pot swung in the basement fireplace (from a crane now in Mr. Gasch's studio) from which the common traveler helped himself.

The common traveler was the drover. His heavy Winchester wagon, with the enormous hind wheels reaching to his shoulder, was parked on the hillside out in front. (92 of them were once counted standing there.) After eating, and some hearty talk which nobody has recorded but which it would have been interesting to listen to, he went off to bed in his wagon, or underneath it, or lay down with as many others as the floor would accommodate, before the kitchen fire. The oxen and horses ate their corn outside and drank water running in an open trough from Spout Spring (nearest spring on Gasch place). The next morning, after a still toddy from the bar on the south end of the veranda and a hearty breakfast (spare ribs, hominy and Johnny cake?), he got upon the road to Georgetown.

The inn served other patrons too. Many men on horseback and many on foot—women traveled little then—driving to market their stock-horses, cows, sheep, hogs, even geese and turkeys. There was a story about a flock of turkeys being struck with the longing for going to bed at Difficult Run, and though the inn was so near their master could not restrain them from roosting in the trees there, and had the risk and chagrin of leaving them for the night and going back for them early the next morning.

What is now the garage was once a country store. The shelves were still there when we came. There was a post-office in the house at one time. The old pigeonholed desk that held the mail used to be



Front view of Drover's Rest.





at the Walkers'. The postmistress had two lovers and was having trouble deciding between them. One had a buggy and a pair of noted bays with silver-mounted harness. He squired her to the all-day meeting and picnic. There she was met and beguiled by the other into the grove where a fast horse waited. He took her onto the horse behind him and was off to Georgetown. When next seen they were married. They lived on the old Trammel place, there on the hill, back of Mrs. Wing's house. The ruins of the old house were there when we came.

There was a race course once down beyond the garden (where Manning Gasch's places are now) where the neighboring sportsmen ran their horses for the delight of the lookers-on, and for money too I suppose. There was a dancing pavilion, very popular with the young, in summer. In winter there was often much merriment in the house, singing and dancing and oyster suppers.

"From the bright sunny South  
In peace and content."

Arkansas Traveler, Virginia Reel, Lonely Road to Boston and cotillion tunes were in high favor. They also liked "The Chase":

"I'm goin' to be a soldier  
And lead a soldier's life.  
(Ladies in the center and hands all round)  
And now I'll take the hand  
Of my own intended wife.  
(Promenade all)

There were sometimes fifty or sixty on the floor (how that could be I don't know). The fiddler played "loud and sweet." He was a "noble fiddler" and unresting.

"Oh young girls can't you come out tonight  
And dance by the light of the moon?"

The men wore homespun suits and the girls wore linsey-woolsey in winter, calico and muslin in summer. When it was all over they climbed into oxcarts and lumbered drowsily home.

One could go by stage coach-and-four and back to Round Hill (Virginia) for fifty cents. The driver was a devil of a fellow, sitting on his high seat flicking flies off the front horses. There were three changes of horses on this journey. The outside passengers were given hot bricks.

Clayt Walker's father, who died just before we left, lived in the house during the Civil War. The Yankees raided them several times. Once his older brothers who were with Mosby, made a stolen visit home. The enemy got wind of them and hurried over. They left hot foot across the fields, "A quarter mile to go" said Pappy Dick, telling of it—he himself was six and watching, goggle-eyed—"and no shelter

in God's world. "Twas a raisin' grade—you could hear the bullets cuttin' the dust." There used to be a bullet hole in the back door. The boys got away; but the soldiers took the little boy's new hat—a lasting grief.

Another time, when his mother was lying in bed with a new baby and the soldiers had been tramping, tramping by for three days in the broiling sun, one dropped out, entered the house, walked through to the back bedroom (the kitchen was in the basement then), looked about very strangely, went out the back door and down towards the barn (directly in front of Clayt's gate)—where he fell down dead. His pockets were quickly rifled by his comrades and he was buried in a too-shallow grave between the house and the spring (spring now is on Madeira land).

The soldiers, both sides, came and took what they wanted. But the "Louisiany Tigers" who "didn't care for God nor devil" paid them once a dollar apiece for corn cakes—in New Orleans money.

I have refreshed my memories about some of these stories by some notes I scribbled when Mr. Walker came to see me the last time, two weeks before his death. I knew he was nearing his end and I wanted to keep what might be kept (such essences are volatile at best). I questioned him as he sat there by the fire in the dining room and wrote as he talked—under cover of his bad eyesight and a fold of kitchen apron. He quite forgot himself and talked with excitement. Finally he got up very shakily to go. "Laws! Jes' to set and study," he said. "What a change—oh what a change! It draws tears to my eyes. I been here two hours talkin' 'bout the old, ancient times." With that the old man hobbled away. Within a week his wife was dead; and in two weeks he had gone.

Who all have lived in the house I cannot tell. It seemed to me that about every third family in Fairfax had, at some time or other. An endless round of births, marriages and deaths went on in the little old rooms. One very funny thing: Two solemn yokels were "setting up"—keeping the death watch—over the body of a third when they found themselves in disagreement as to whether ritual required the body to lie north and south or east and west. They quarrelled all night in the little front sitting room, and finally became so violent they withdrew, more or less decorously, to settle it outside. A neighbor at last was called to umpire!

It is impossible for me to say what I feel about this little place, I hope you will love it as we did and be happy in it. . . . .

Yours sincerely,

PEARL E. YOUNG.





An aerial view of Drover's Rest.



## Recollections of Rose Hill—Fairfax County, Virginia

*By Mrs. Daingerfield Love*

Rose Hill was located between Telegraph Road and Franconia Road. It was on the highest ground in that part of the county and from the front lawn there was a magnificent view of the valley, in the direction of the Potomac River, which was seven miles away. It was built on part of the George Mason Estate, of Gunston Hall, by Daniel French, who married Penelope Mason. He died on May 25, 1771, aged 48. Following is the epitaph on his tombstone:

To the memory of Dan'l French who died  
the 25 May Anno Domini 1771 Aged 48 years.

Beneath this stone my Hon'd parent lies  
Whom fate snatched from me to the pity's skies.

How great his loss and yet to grieve how vain  
We part but once soon to meet again.

Where joys are endless, where no grief is known  
Where peace, content and happiness are one.

Yet take these tears Mortalities relief  
And til we share your joys, Forgive our grief.

These little rites A Stone verse receive  
Tis all a kinsman All a friend can give.

The house was beautiful, the woodwork very fine, especially the Chippendale cupboard built in a corner of the drawing room. The chimney was six feet thick, which made later heating very difficult. Mantels in the first floor rooms very fine, as were the egg and dart mouldings on frieze of the first floor cornices.

The edge of the lawn was lined with lilac bushes and a variety of trees, among them were locust, horse chestnut, maple, cedar, pine and black walnut. The lawn was terraced down to the first field and myrtle, day lilies and fennel covered the field below the terrace. A grape arbor was at the side of the lawn and at the end was a sunken garden where the one-hundred-leaf rose, *Rosa Centifolia*, covered the sides. In the garden grew every kind of flower, among them such lovely old roses as *La France*, *Jacqueminot* and *Safrona*. A wonderful climbing white rose which bloomed in clusters, covered one end of the house.

Memories of my childhood there seem like Heaven. We had a goat, a donkey, apples, pears, and cherries.

My parents loved all things young and our home was always filled with various cousins and friends.

My grandfather, John Bathurst Daingerfield, bought Rose Hill just after the Civil War and later gave it to my father. Here he learned farming, and later married Harriet Taylor of Georgetown and Ponton, Md. Here my brother, William Bathurst and I were born.

On the lawn where Daniel French was buried, a flat stone, a small weeping willow and an althea bush created a wonderfully mysterious place for us children to play. Often when mother went to town, we would "borrow" grandma's crepe veil and play funeral. I have shed more tears over Daniel French and made more little bunches of flowers for him than any other person I have ever known. Daniel French's daughter eloped out of a dressing room window with Ben Dulany of Shooters Hill, now the location of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

There was also a sun dial on the lawn, where strange to say, the iron indicator was never lost, even though a United States flag had been carved by a Civil War soldier on its hands.

After my grandfather's death we came to Alexandria to live, and here my sister, Mrs. John L. Hall, Bell Daingerfield, was born.

The man who bought Rose Hill was a scientist and he knew nothing about cleaning soot out of old chimneys and it caught fire and burned the house down even with the roof covered with snow. I think this was about five years after he bought it. The farm was later bought by Mr. May. There was a comfortable modern house on the site of the old one at this time. When later the farm was sold, Mr. May gave the relatives of Daniel French, Miss Fanny Herbert and Mrs. Brook, who were related through the Dulanys, permission to move his stone to Pohick Church yard where he had been a vestryman. Daniel French was an architect and builder.

Mr. Beverly Mason's home on Mason land had been burned and was rebuilt. He returned to it after serving in the Civil War. This home was on the Telegraph Road just beyond Rose Hill. There he made a home for his wife and children, his father and mother, and three orphaned children of a deceased brother. Mrs. Mason and all the family were very useful members of Old Olivet Church just by the road on the way to Bush Hill.

Mr. Beverly Mason walked to Franconia R. R. station every day,

three or four miles, and taught in Miss Cabell's school. He later started a boarding school in Georgetown which developed into the splendid school "Gunston Hall" in Washington.

Another neighbor and hero of the Civil War was Mr. William Boyce who had been a very prominent lawyer from Charleston, S. C., and also a member of Congress. There was of course, nothing for the lawyer at his home so he came to Washington, D. C. and established a Claims Office and settled on a farm near Franconia R. R. Station. His wife, his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. Richard Giallard, ran the farm. Mr. Boyce, then an old man, walked to Franconia Station every morning, about one one-half miles from his home, as long as he lived.

## A History of Sunset Hills Farm

*By A. Smith Bowman, Jr.*

Nestled among the hills of some 7,200 acres in the rural north-western section of Fairfax County lies Sunset Hills Farm, which for the past thirty-two years has been the seat of the Bowman family. Here we find a self-sufficient agricultural and industrial estate—a unique and integrated combination of farm and Bourbon whiskey distillery.

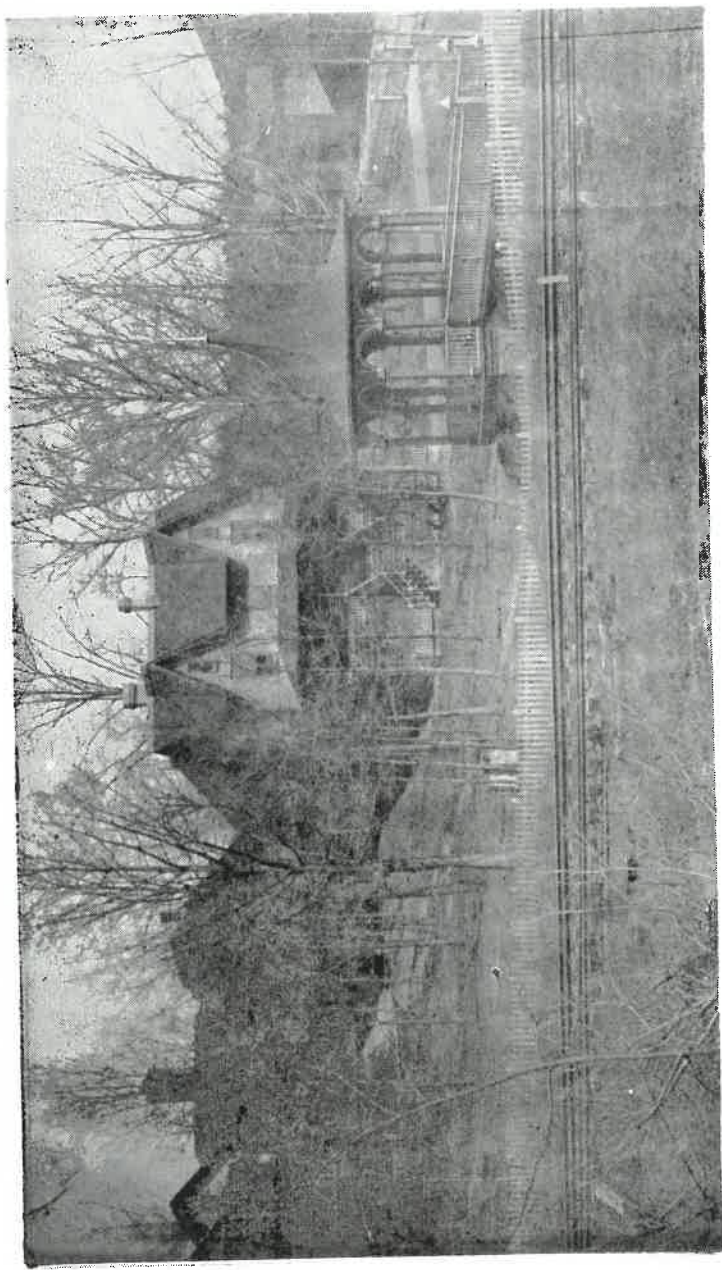
The origins of Sunset Hills go back to 1649 when King Charles II of England, in recompense for loyalty to him, granted to seven English noblemen, his friends and courtiers, the entire area called the "Northern Neck Proprietary," bounded by and within the heads of the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. This land was at length acquired by Thomas, Lord Culpeper, one of the original seven, and was inherited from him by his wife. His wife, Margaret, Lady Culpeper, died in May, 1710 leaving the Proprietary to her daughter Catherine, Lady Fairfax, also at the time a widow.

At the death of Lady Fairfax in 1719, her son Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax, inherited the Proprietary which comprised one-fifth of the present State of Virginia. George Washington assisted him in laying out his great manor, "Greenway Court" near the Blue Ridge.

As appeared from surveys of 1736, Difficult Run was the northern limit of the comparatively small tracts by which eastern Fairfax County above Hunting Creek was settled. When Lord Fairfax (6th) inspected that territory in 1737, he found so few seatings between Difficult and the Sugarlands that he was able to establish below the Carter's Frying Pan Tract his "Great Falls Manor" of 12,588 acres, on the upper side of Difficult extending from its branches to the Great Falls of the Potomac. At the time, these were deemed mineral lands but in 1765 when it was apparent that there were no valuable minerals to be mined here, Lord Fairfax made a present of this manor to his nephew, the Reverend Bryan Fairfax, son of his brother, Col. William Fairfax of "Belvoir," who ultimately succeeded as 8th Lord Fairfax.

In addition to "Great Falls Manor," Bryan inherited the 5,568-acre "Towlestone Grange" where he long lived and where George Washington frequently visited; also the 1,429-acre "Springfield" near what is now Tyson's Corner; and the 1,152-acre "Ash Grove" adjoining to the west. In 1790 he built the later house which is still standing.





First residence of Dr. Wiehle, built in 1888. Stables are seen in the background ;  
and the Victorian summer house, which is still standing, in the foreground.





His son Thomas, who succeeded him as 9th Baron Cameron (Lord Fairfax), acquired by a will probated April 18, 1802 over 40,000 acres in Fairfax County where he lived as a country squire supervising the administration of his estates. His winter home at 607 Cameron Street in Alexandria was built in 1816 and is in an excellent state of preservation.

On April 4, 1833 Thomas Fairfax and his wife Margaret deeded to three of their sons, Albert, Henry and Orlando, various parcels aggregating over 13,000 acres. Over ten years later, on October 25, 1843 they deeded to another son, Reginald, two tracts, one containing 8,035 acres, including what is now Sunset Hills, and the other containing 481 acres.

On December 29, 1851 Reginald who was at that time on duty with the U. S. Navy at St. Vincent in the Cape Verde Islands appointed Joshua C. Gunnell as Attorney in Fact to execute a deed of these lands to Benjamin Thornton of Orange County. This deed was recorded February 28, 1852 showing two tracts, one of 8,210 acres which includes Sunset Hills Farm and another of 453 acres on Piney Branch near Vienna. The price for these 8,663 acres was \$43,300.00 or \$5 an acre.

Shortly after this purchase, Mr. Thornton built the fourteen-room house reminiscent of the Gothic Revival of that era. This house, south of the railroad was destroyed by fire in 1955 and only the base of one of the large chimneys remain. For over thirty years this station on the Loudoun & Hampshire Railway was known as Thornton Station and sometimes referred to as Thornton's Mills.

During the War between the States there was quite a bit of small action in this general neighborhood. The two following letters relating to Union reconnaissance parties on Sunday, October 20, 1861 are taken from the Official Records. The reference to the roads of that day are interesting:

Official Records, Volume 51, Part 1, Page 45:

"Dranesville, October 21, 1861.

"Major-General McCall, Commanding Division.

"Sir: I have the honor to transmit herewith a sketch (omitted) of reconnaissance made during a part of yesterday by a small party under my charge.

"Our general direction was to the south of the junction of the two pikes at Dranesville, and route extended to within

sight of the railroad in the vicinity of the two stations, Herndon and Thornton's Mills. The roads are good, generally smooth, nearly level to the pike, and thence gentle descents toward the railroad. Just to the west of the stream near Herndon smooth, open fields extend on both sides of the road and off to the railroad on the south. Nearing Thornton's Mills the road appears to be less traveled than the one to Herndon, although it has been lately used in the transportation of hay and fodder by the enemy to the southward. There are several bridle paths and wood roads crossing and diverging from the main road. The bridge on the first stream nearing Herndon is broken up. It is made of poles and easily repaired, and there is no difficulty in crossing the stream. The second stream is also bridged, but probably not sufficiently strong for artillery. The stream is fordable and no trouble need be anticipated. On nearing the railroad at both stations we discovered the enemy's pickets mounted. At Thornton's Mills they fired upon us, and the fire was returned. Having only a party of ten men, I did not deem it prudent to expose ourselves to an ambushade, and having accomplished the object of the reconnaissance I returned.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

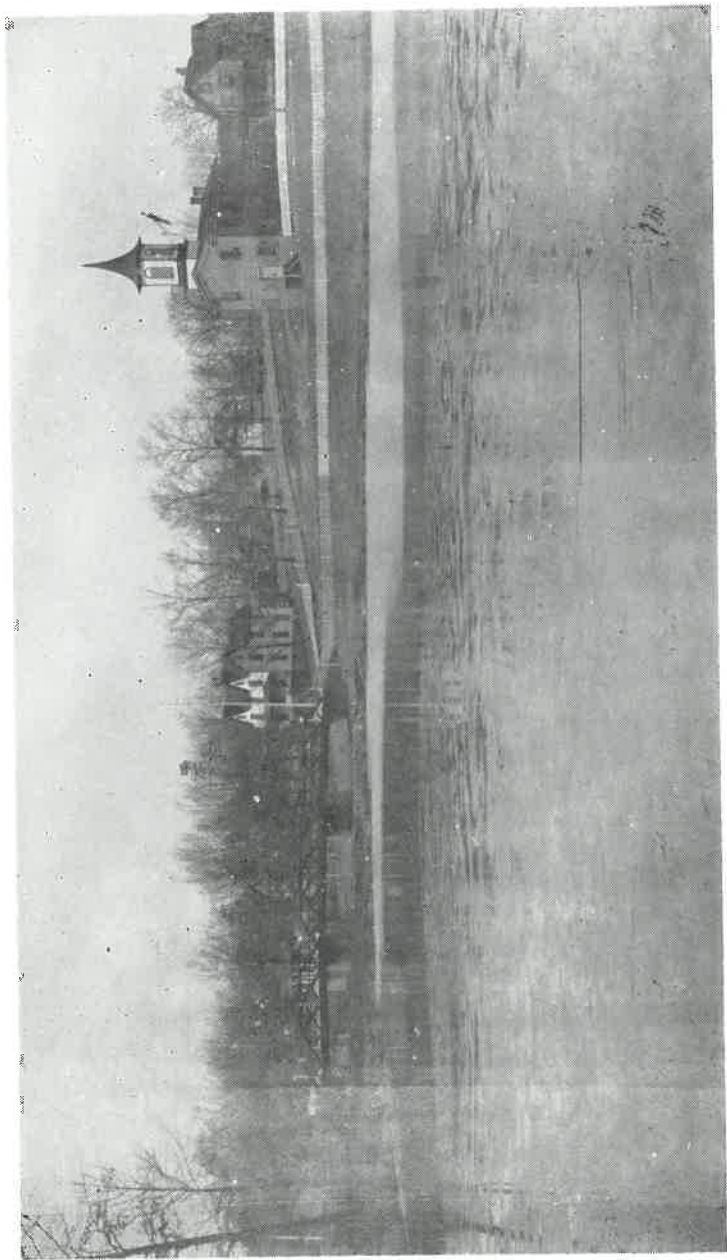
"Jno. G. Parke,  
"Captain, Topographical Engineers."

Official Records, Volume 5, Page 288:

"Arlington, Va., October 22, 1861.

"Lieutenant Colonel J. N. Macomb, A.D.C.,  
Corps of Engineers.

"Sir: I have the honor to report that on Sunday last (October 20), in compliance with the orders of Major-General (George A.) McCall, I made a reconnaissance from Dranesville to Hunter's Mill and Thornton Station, on the Loudoun and Hampshire Railway. I left Dranesville with 10 mounted men under the command of a lieutenant, and near Hunter's Mill met Lieutenant-Colonel (Thomas L.) Kane with a battalion of the Tiger-Tail Rangers, who had a skirmish with a detachment of secessionists at that place, and routed them. This position is one of some military importance, and can



View across the lake showing the gazebo, Dr. Wiehle's home, the Town Hall, and residence built by John W. Sherwood.



be defended by us against a superior force approaching by the Fairfax Road. Thence we ascended by a road upon the north side of the railway. Entered the road leading from Lewinsville to Fryingspan. Left it at the crossing of the railroad, and took a less traveled road through the woods north of railway. Crossed headwaters of Colville Run, and come to Thornton's Station. Here were a few secession cavalry, who, after showing a disposition to make a stand, fled. Thence, by a road which seemed at night pretty level and smooth, we returned in a direction nearly north to Dranesville. The road by Hunter's Mill is the main road from that region to Fairfax Court House, and is moderately good. Colonel Kane afforded every facility for the reconnaissance in his power, and kindly gave me the odometer ditsances taken under his direction.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"A. W. Whipple,  
"Major of Engineers."

The following year, on September 3, 1862, General Lee and his army came up the old Ox Road and the Ridge Road (Route 602), through Sunset Hills, entering the Leesburg-Alexandria Turnpike near Dranesville. He crossed to Potomac at White's Ford and entered Maryland September 5-6 on his way to Antietam.

On May 28, 1886, Commissioners in a suit pending in the Circuit Court of Alexandria City, conveyed to Carl Adolph Max Wiehle and William McKee Dunn a tract of land described as being at Hunters Mill in Dranesville District, being a part of the real estate conveyed to Benjamin Thornton by Reginald Fairfax and containing 6449 acres, 2 roods and 7 poles. This deed contained a metes and bounds description according to a survey of R. R. Farr made in the year 1878.

After holding this land jointly for six months, it was divided and on November 24th Dr. Wiehle and his wife, Louise C. Wiehle, took title to 3228 acres; and Mr. Dunn and his wife, Elizabeth Lanier Dunn, the remaining 3221 acres. The Dunn land lay entirely south of the tracks of the Washington, Ohio and Western Railroad, as it was then called, and contained the Thornton manor house. Most of the Wiehle portion was north of the tracks.

During the next four years Dr. Wiehle purchased several additional tracts, increasing his holdings by some 300 acres. Here, it is interesting to note, that in 1888 he paid \$10.00 per acre to the Chamblin

family for 97 acres near Brown's Chapel, part of which is now the property of the Fairfax Hunt and includes the burial ground and the log cabin near the stone entrance to Sunet Hills.

Dr. Wiehle, son of a German Reformed minister, came to Philadelphia at the age of two. He was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and practiced medicine in Philadelphia. He prospered acquired a family of seven children and retired to activate dreams of empire building. About 1881 he moved his family to Washington and built them a house at 1621 Connecticut Avenue.

In 1888 he built as a summer home an ample frame house at Sunset Hills, gingerbreaded with the bric-a-brac architecture of the period. The kitchen, storage and servants' rooms were separated from the house by a covered porch, and stables for the riding and driving horses were to the rear. This house stood behind the Victorian summer house or gazebo that is still standing beside the more modern swimming pool.

Three lakes were dug by hand, which, in the light of present-day bulldozers and earth-moving machinery, must have been quite a task. The lower and largest of these is still in existence. Above this were two smaller lakes, separated by stone dams, one of which forms part of the lower wall of the present swimming pool. The middle lake was formerly spanned by a wood-trussed bridge which transported what is now Route 602.

The thirty-foot square ice house on the banks of the largest lake was the largest one for miles around and the annual ice-cutting was a great event to which the whole family came out from Washington to witness. This building was the first office of the distillery and now contains offices of the Internal Revenue men assigned to the distillery.

Dr. Wiehle was a perfectionist and dreamed of a Utopia carved out of this virgin forest of white oak. He decided to build a town on this land and, during his first year of ownership, was successful in persuading the Federal Government to establish a post office here, named "Wiehle." This post office was established August 22, 1887, and the name was officially changed to "Sunset Hills" November 27, 1923. He brought over a city planner from his native Germany to lay out the town and in 1892 a detailed map was drawn up by Joseph Berry of Ash Grove, Virginia. Streets were systematically and symmetrically laid out and names given to them. Paris, London, Berlin and Vienna Avenues reflected the European background of the planner. American cities were represented by Washington, New York and





View across swimming pool showing summer house and residence through trees.



Gothic residence built by Benjamin Thornton prior to the War Between the States and destroyed by fire in 1955.



Philadelphia Avenues. Names of trees were represented and streets were named for his children. Lakeside Avenue separated these blocks from an area along the railroad tracks reserved for manufacturing. A portion of this latter was conveyed to the Maryland and Virginia Serpentine and Talc Company of Baltimore which built a mill which is the nucleus of the present distillery buildings. Talc and soapstone were mined on the Wiehle acreage and for a while this was a flourishing enterprise.

In this industrial area were also a brick kiln and saw mill whence came all the bricks, lumber and millwork used in the buildings of the town.

The brick-steeped Town Hall on the corner of Edmond and Lakeside Avenues was built and for many years services of the Wiehle Methodist Episcopal Church were held on the second floor of this building. One of the Wiehle daughters, Mrs. Alpheus Winter, now living in Bridgeport, Connecticut, recalls how these evening services were often enlivened by fast flying bats which amused the children but did not faze the pastor or reverent congregation.

The largest building of this embryo city was the summer hotel located in a park at the crest of a hill behind the Wiehle residence. This was a rambling 35-room building with towers, gables and many porches. It sported a bowling alley and tennis courts, the lakes afforded swimming, fishing and boating, and the surrounding woods offered cool bridle paths and good hunting. This was appropriately named the Aesculapian Hotel by its physician-builder and was filled to capacity each summer at monthly rates of \$30.00 including board. Its chef had once worked for J. P. Morgan and its cuisine and the excellent quality of its spring water was known for miles around. There was a continual waiting list. During the 1930's this building was the home of the Fairfax Hunt and was famous for the gala Hunt breakfasts, balls and other events held there. After being partially destroyed by fire, it was torn down in 1956.

On September 11, 1893, Dr. and Mrs. Wiehle deeded their land to the Virginia Lumber and Manufacturing Company, a closely-held family company. The following year this company declared its intention to sub-divide into blocks, lots, streets, etc., as indicated on the plan and in December, 1894 deeded a part of Block 10 to the Dranesville School District. The original four-room school house there is still standing near the dairy.

Between 1895 and 1898 lots were sold to John W. Sherwood, I. Robert Wiehle (a cousin), Jackson Lee Poston, Martha Ohrndorff,

and Charles R. Brown. Today houses stand on most of these and are occupied by employees of Sunset Hills Farm.

In the Spring of 1899 Erskin M. Sunderland of the Washington architectural firm of Sunderland Brothers completed plans for the 25-room mansion made of native brick and timbers. This was built on the hill between the original house and the hotel. The 24-inch-thick walls, high ceilings, large rooms and surrounding galleries made it a most comfortable home.

Unfortunately, the good doctor did not live long to enjoy his new home. Finances went awry, his dream blurred, and he died of pneumonia February 23, 1901 at the Connecticut Avenue home. His wife, who died in 1938, is buried in the same grave in Rock Creek Cemetery.

On February 19, 1907 the Virginia Lumber and Manufacturing Company deeded to J. W. Sherwood, W. A. Black, T. A. Coulter, J. L. Poston and Max C. J. Wiehle, Trustees of the Wiehle Methodist Episcopal Church, three lots on New York Avenue. The present white wooden church was built and used as the Wiehle Methodist Episcopal Church until 1939. After that it fell into disuse until 1951 when my brother and I purchased it from the Methodist Church. It was restored and on September 21, 1952 was dedicated in tribute to our mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith Bowman by Dr. George M. Docherty of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church of Washington, D. C. and the Reverend J. L. B. Williams, then rector of Immanuel-On-The-Hill at the Virginia Episcopal Seminary near Alexandria. It is now used as a non-denominational chapel for the 25 or so families of the farm.

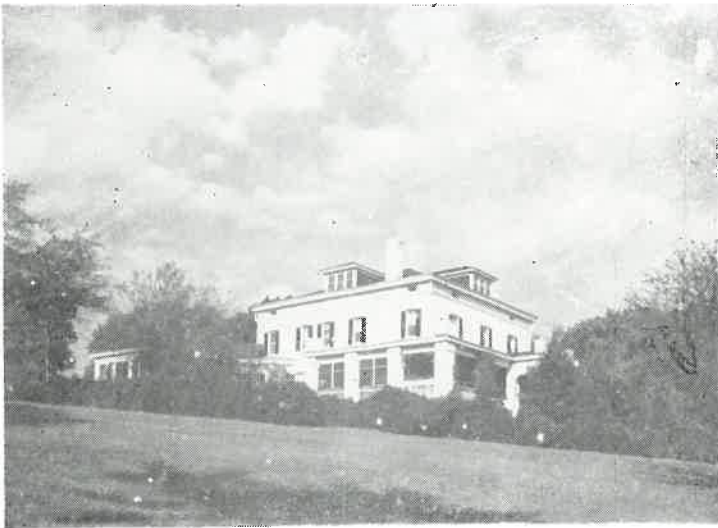
In July, 1908 Dr. Hugh B. Hutchison and William Crighton of Herndon contracted with the Wiehle heirs to purchase their holdings of approximately 3500 acres for \$80,000.00. On September 15, 1908 the Virginia Lumber and Manufacturing Company and Max C. J. Wiehle, A Louis Wiehle and Louise C. Wiehle, being all the stockholders, deeded this land to the Cuthbert Land and Development Company, Inc., which company had meanwhile been established by Hutchison and Crighton.

There was then virtually no cleared land, and they cleared about 500 acres of farm land right out of the forest. They built the large dairy barns, horse barn, poultry houses and several tenant houses.

On November 4, 1919, Dr. Hutchison bought out his partners and



The Aesculapian Hotel built by Dr. Wiehle and  
at one time the home of the Fairfax Hunt.



Residence built by Dr. Wiehle in 1899, presently  
home of the writer.



dissolved the Cuthbert Land and Development Company. Two years later, he had his first heart attack and died in July, 1924.

In the Fall of 1927 my father purchased the Hutchison holdings, then amounting to nearly 4,000 acres; and our family moved to Virginia. In 1947 we purchased the former Dunn tract lying south of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad, which brought the total acreage of Sunset Hills Farm to around 7,200 acres, making it the largest farm in northern Virginia.

Many changes have taken place since 1927, principally the establishment of the A. Smith Bowman Distillery, distiller of those Straight Bourbon Whiskeys, "VIRGINIA GENTLEMAN" and "FAIRFAX COUNTY." When the Repeal of Prohibition came to Virginia in 1934, the old soapstone mill was converted into the main distillery building, and other buildings were used as the first warehouses and other dependencies. Grain grown on the farm is used to make these Bourbons; and the mash, a by-product, is fed to about a thousand dairy and beef cattle.

Many acres have been cleared, lakes have been built, roads have been built and improved, until there is little resemblance to the Sunset Hills I first saw in the summer of 1927. However, these are as nothing compared to the changes that will inevitably take place within the next thirty-two years.

Plans for a self-contained community of some 30,000 residents are now being developed. These would include parks and wildlife preserves, a golf course, an industrial park, shopping centers, churches, and possibly an institution of higher learning. Dr Wiehle's 19th century dream of a city on these acres may soon be fulfilled.



## Leeton

*By W. Lewis Leigh*

Situated on the crest of a long, high ridge running north and south, about midway between Chantilly and Centreville in the western part of Fairfax County, stands one of the oldest houses in Northern Virginia, the original, historic LEETON, ancestral home of the Turbervilles. Its history goes back to colonial times, to the days when letters were delivered to its owner by servants and slaves, when the value of currency was pounds tobacco, when oxen and slaves were used to raise the main crops grown, corn and tobacco. This far day, with its primitive means of production, communication and transportation will soon seem but a dream when jet airplanes will be taking off and landing on the old plantation, for part of the new Chantilly Airport falls within its original boundaries. The site for the old house was well chosen as it is known for its magnificent view, said to be one of the longest and finest in Fairfax County. Situated as it is on a high ridge facing west, it commands a sweeping view of the countryside over a valley to the Bull Run Mountains and beyond, a total distance of approximately 35 miles to the famed Blue Ridge Mountains.

LEETON is a tall, 8-room, center-hall, two-story, frame, colonial dwelling with three huge outside chimneys 40 ft. high, six fireplaces, with much of the original floor, trim and doors and with large hand-hewn oak timbers in the basement. It was the home of the Turbervilles in Fairfax County and is the only old place in the County mentioned in a book entitled "Historic Northern Neck of Virginia" published in the early 1930s by H. Ragland Eubank, who writes on page 57 thereof—"The Turbervilles of Leeton and the Washingtons of Walnut Farm and Bushfields visited regularly.<sup>1</sup>

Like many of the old homes of colonial days, LEETON has its family burial ground located to the south and just outside the yard. The burial plot is enclosed by an old iron picket fence and is sheltered by two huge spreading American elm trees, one now sadly battered by the storms of days gone by. In this burial plot are buried many of the Turbervilles and DeBells. The oldest marked grave is that of George Richard Lee Turberville, the first Turberville born in LEETON in 1797 and buried in 1849. This Turberville was a son

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1. Bushfield is in Westmoreland Co., Va., and was the home of John Augustine Washington, a brother of George Washington, and birthplace of his son, Bushrod Washington, a member of the Supreme Court of the United States. Walnut Farm was in Westmoreland County and was the home of Corbin Washington, another son of John Augustine Washington.

of George Lee Turberville and his wife, Harriot Lee Turberville, a daughter of Richard Henry Lee.

To turn now from the history of the Turberville family to the patent by which their land in northern Virginia was acquired and its subsequent history we find that on December 4, 1727 Captain (later Major) George Turberville of Hickory Hill, Westmoreland County, Virginia received a patent of 4142 acres, 3 roods and 5 poles of land on Flat Lick Run from William Gage, Agent for Honorable Thomas Lord Fairfax.<sup>2</sup> It was then located in Stafford County, Virginia. Later it was in Prince William County when it was formed out of Stafford County in 1730. Then it was in Fairfax County when it was formed out of Prince William in 1742. Still later, it was in Loudoun County when that part of the present Fairfax County west of Difficult Run became part of Loudoun County in 1757. Finally, it came back to and became a part of Fairfax County when that present part of the County between Difficult Run and Loudoun County was ceded back to Fairfax in 1798.

George Turberville of Hickory Hill, by his will with codicil annexed, dated March 30, 1741, probated March 30, 1742 in Will Book No. 9, page 200, of the Will records of Westmoreland County, Virginia, devised the above mentioned land to his unborn child, if a boy. The child born was a boy; he became George Turberville of Pecatone of Westmoreland County, Virginia, who, in turn, by his Will dated June 29, 1790, probated January 29, 1793 in Will Book No. 18, page 278, of Westmoreland County, Virginia, devised the same to his son, George Richard Lee Turberville, (See attached plat and descriptions) being the Turberville that married Harriot Lee, daughter of Richard Henry Lee, and settled at LEETON, following their marriage in 1794. The early records in Prince William, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties refer to the LEETON tract as a plantation and show that it was operated as such by George Turberville of Pecatone.<sup>3</sup> One of the recorded instruments is a lease<sup>4</sup> dated October 22nd in the 14th year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lord George The II, recorded November 24, 1740, between George Turberville of the County of Westmoreland and William Land (perhaps Lane) and Sarah Land, his wife, and John, their son, leasing 150 acres situated on Branch issuing out of Salisbury

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2. Northern Neck Grants B for period 1726-29 in Virginia State Library, also plat thereof later recorded in Liber S, No. 2, Page 330 of land records of Fairfax County, Va.

3. Pecatone, sometimes spelled Peckatone, was the home of Turbervilles in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

4. Liber E, Page 142, Prince William Co., Va.

plain<sup>5</sup> recited as part of 4142 acres, 3 roods and 5 perches acquired in 1727. This lease ran for term of their natural lives or the life of the longest liver of them and provided for annual rent from December 25, 1739 of 530 pounds of tobacco and that William Land would, within two years, erect upon the premises one 40 ft. tobacco barn, a 20 ft. dwelling and all such other buildings as shall be necessary for use of said plantation, also to plant 100 apple trees and 25 peach trees.

Recorded among the early land records of Prince William County are three other leases<sup>6</sup> on the same terms and conditions by George Turberville out of the LEETON tract, one of 150 acres to James Land (perhaps Lane) and Lidia Land, his wife, and their son, Aaron Land; another of 150 acres to John Cannady and his wife, Sarah, and still another to Robert Thomas and Elizabeth, his wife, and Robert Thomas, their son, making a total of 600 acres leased in the year 1740, yielding a total rent of 2120 pounds of tobacco.

Recorded in Loudoun County, Virginia,<sup>7</sup> is a lease setting forth its date as "16th day of March in the 10th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George, the III, by Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King Defenders of the Faith" (year 1771) by George Turberville of the County of Westmoreland, Gent. and Jeremiah Cockerill of Loudoun County, planter, and William Cockerill and Thomas Cockerill, his sons, leasing 356 acres of LEETON plantation located in Parish of Cameron on south side of Flat Lick Run, beginning at Ford on road leading to William Carr Lane's Mill<sup>8</sup> yielding an annual rent of 16 pounds current money of Virginia. They are likewise to erect a dwelling, 40 ft. tobacco barn<sup>9</sup> other buildings and plant 150 apple trees and 250 peach trees. This lease covered Mt. Rocky, the farm of my good neighbor, Oden H. Hutchison.

Going back for a moment to the old land records of Prince William County, I found two other deeds of interest, though they do not pertain to LEETON, but to its owner. One, a deed in fee from George Turberville to John Lucas, conveyed 110 acres. Attached to this deed is a Livery of Seisen receipt, something I have read about in law school but have never seen. The other, a deed dated October

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5. Salisbury Plain shown on said Plat recorded in Liber S, No. 2, Page 330 as on Cub Run North of Little River Pike.

6. Liber E, Pages 146, 244 and 302 of the land records of Prince William County, Va.

7. Deed Book H, Page 194 of land records of Loudoun County, Virginia.

8. Wm. Carr Lane's Mill located on Rt. 657 between Centreville and Chantilly, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. David Lawrence.

9. In Liber W, Page 316 of land records of Fairfax County, there is list of 274 hogsheads of tobacco received at Colchester Warehouse in year 1792, and another for 148 hogsheads received at Alexandria Warehouse.

24th in the 14th year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lord George, the II, from George Turberville to William Shortridge and Mary, his wife, for 103 acres, recited therein as part of 3402 acres on Scotts Run, now Fairfax County, Virginia, which the grantor had acquired by patent on September 4, 1724<sup>10</sup> by deed dated November 22, 1798.<sup>11</sup>

George Richard Lee Turberville of the County of Fairfax and Harriot, his wife, conveyed to Samuel Hutchison for the sum of 450 pounds lawful money of Virginia, 100 acres of land, recited as being part of the original tract taken up by George Turberville and by him devised to his son, George Turberville, deceased, and by him devised to his son, George Richard Lee Turberville. This land was located north of the Little River Turnpike and will be within the new Chantilly Airport. By another deed<sup>12</sup> dated April 4, 1805, Thomas Lee, Sr., Guardian of infant children, heirs of George Richard Lee Turberville, conveyed to William Lane, Sr. 150 acres north of the Little River Turnpike, recited as being the same land leased to said James Lane.

A division of the residue of the LEETON tract between the heirs of George R. L. Turberville was made in a Court proceeding May Court 1817, Fairfax County, Virginia, when Commissioners were appointed to divide between George L. Turberville and Cornelia Lee Stuart, wife of Charles Calvert Stuart, the real estate and personal property of their late father. Recorded with the Court order and Commissioner's report is a plat of 4020 acres<sup>13</sup> being the residue of the original LEETON tract after conveyance of 100 acres to Samuel Hutchison and 150 acres to William Lane, Sr. It is divided into three lots; Lot No. 1, upon which old LEETON stands contained 1244 acres located south of the Little River Turnpike; Lot No. 3 containing 382½ acres located north of the Little River Turnpike was allotted to George Lee Turberville; and Lot No. 2 containing 1588½ acres located north of the Little River Turnpike was allotted to Cornelia Lee Stuart. It was upon this latter tract that she and her husband, Col. Charles Calvert Stuart built and lived in the original Chantilly Mansion for many years. I am told by older members of the Turberville family that she named it after the home of her grandfather, the Honorable Richard Henry Lee, located on the Stratford tract in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

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10. Liber E, Page 241 and Page 240 of land records of Prince William County, Va.

11. Liber B 2, Page 13 of land records of Fairfax Co., also Liber E 2, Page 466.

12. Liber S, No. 2, Page 330 of land records of Fairfax County, Va.

13. Liber S, No. 2, Page 330 of land records of Fairfax Co., Va.

Indicative that the LEETON plantation was operated on quite an extensive scale, the Commissioner's report divides 45 slaves, allotting 22 to Cornelia and 23 to George. The 1588½ acres that was allotted to Cornelia Lee Stuart has been divided into several farms. The tract upon which the old Chantilly Mansion stood, now consisting of 271.59 acres, is owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Lohman and is today known as Chantilly Farm. I am told by older residents that the original Chantilly Mansion erected by Col. Charles Calvert Stuart was located to the rear of the present home of the Lohmans and was burned many years ago. Other properties within this tract between the Little River Turnpike and the Herndon-Chantilly Road are Emory W. Reisinger Estate of approximately 113.33 acres, J. B. Armfield farm of 152 acres, late A. J. Cox farm of 190 acres, Ernest N. Hudgins farm of 145 acres, most of the well known Dairy Lou farm of 560 acres, more or less, owned by Mr. and Mrs. James B. Franklin, the old stone dwelling located on the northerly side of the Little River Turnpike, on 127 acres of land now owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Hutchison and the G. N. Patton farm of 71.2 acres located east of and adjacent to the C. E. Hutchison property.

Crossing over the Herndon-Chantilly Road to the westerly side thereof, the tract extended from and including the beautiful brick residence of Mr. and Mrs. George Ray Harrison in a westerly direction along their property line and along the original boundary of Sully, present home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Nolting to the Dunlop Road; thence in a westerly direction along Dunlop Road and continuing on beyond to Cub Run. It extended northward along the Herndon-Chantilly Road from the residence of George Ray Harrison to the Wall Road which runs along southerly line of the dairy farm of the late Frank E. Peck and thence in a westerly direction along Wall Road and beyond to Cub Run. Included in this part of the old LEETON patent, other than the George Ray Harrison property, much of which will be in the Chantilly Airport, are the residences of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Maurer, formerly the late Irving Harrison farm, the R. E. Wagstaff residence and the Leslie R. Coates dairy farm, and other properties.

By deed dated January 1, 1830, George L. Turberville conveyed the Lot No. 3 acquired in the division of his father's property to Alexander Turley -- and by another deed date November 21, 1831, he conveyed to James Wrenn 480 acres<sup>14</sup> being present Mt. Rocky farm of Oden Hutchison and Robert Wrenn farm located on the westerly side of the Centreville-Chantilly Road opposite LEETON.

In a deed in trust dated October 1830 from George Lee Turber-

14. Liber Z 2, Page 15 of land records of Fairfax County, and Liber A, No. 3, Page 14 thereof.



ville to George M. Hunter, Trustee,<sup>15</sup> I find the earliest reference among the land records to LEETON, by name. This deed includes and describes three places owned by George Lee Turberville; namely, Mt. Rocky, Leeton and Golden Grove and describes the three as containing about 1240 acres. As heretofore referred to, Mt. Rocky consists of the farm of Oden H. Hutchison and the Robert Wrenn farm. LEETON, likewise, has been divided and is the present home of the author and Mrs. Leigh and, as stated before, upon this farm the old house stands. They acquired the property in 1952 and it was the first time it had been out of the Turberville family since its acquisition in 1727. It fronts on the Centreville-Chantilly Road bounded on the south by the Poplar Tree Road across from part of the old Lewis Machen farm and the home of Otto L. Saunders. The present farm of Harriot Lee McWhorter, who was a granddaughter of George L. Turberville, and the farm of Hugh Sutphin and Ned Sutphin, which latter farm is situated on the south side of Little River Turnpike east of the well-known O. C. Downs General Store, is now known as Flat Lick Farm. The Golden Grove tract, likewise, is located on the southerly side of the Little River Turnpike and is east of the Flat Lick Farm. It has been divided and is presently owned by George L. Saunders, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Roger C. Sprigg, W. Ray Thompson and a part of the Fair View farm, which was owned and operated for many years by the late F. W. Huddleson, former Treasurer of Fairfax County.

LEETON and GOLDEN GROVE were retained by George R. L. Turberville until his death in 1849 when, by the terms of his last will and testament, dated August 7, 1843, probated August 16, 1849,<sup>16</sup> he devised the properties to his wife, Margaret V. Turberville, in the event he died without children. However, he left two children surviving him who reached maturity, namely, George R. L. Turberville and Hattie L. Turberville.

The LEETON and GOLDEN GROVE tracts that George R. L. Turberville owned at the time of his death in 1849 were partitioned between his widow and two children by Chancery suit instituted in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia in 1870. In this suit, his daughter, Hattie L. Turberville, was allotted Lot. No. 2 of 300 acres which embraces the Golden Grove tract and his son, George R. L. Turberville, was allotted Lot No. 1, containing 489 acres with the following limitations; that Margarette V. Turberville, the widow, was to have and to hold, free from the control of her son during her life, the house known as LEETON, with 80 acres of cleared land and 50

15. Liber Z, No. 2, Page 159 of land records of Fairfax County.

16. Will Book V, No. 1, Page 294 of Fairfax County Will records.

acres of wood land. The George R. L. Turberville who acquired the 489 acres in this Chancery suit lived at LEETON for many years. A news article that appeared in the Fairfax Herald at the time of his death in 1920 recited that he died at the old homestead, LEETON, where he was born on April 16, 1845, and at the age of 16 he joined the Confederate forces under Col. Mosby and served with him in many thrilling raids and skirmishes,<sup>27</sup> including the Battle of Miscal Barn and the capture of General Stoughton; that he was twice wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines in attempting to secure some artillery pieces on the firing line. He also participated in the Green Back raid with Col. Mosby's forces capturing the Union pay. He was later captured and held a prisoner in the old Capitol Prison in Washington D. C.

At the time of his death in 1920, Mr. Turberville left surviving him two sons, George Richard Lee Turberville, and William H. Turberville, and two daughters, Mary DeBell and Hattie Lee McWhorter. In a later division of the property, LEETON became the property of the son, George Richard Lee Turberville, who lived there for some years before moving to Centreville and engaging in the mercantile business, being widely known and highly respected in his community. He was a lifelong member of the St. John's Episcopal Church at Centreville and a Vestryman for many years. He was, likewise a member of Acacia Lodge No. 16 AF & AM at Clifton.

(In compiling the foregoing data, I have gathered a good deal of information on the Turberville family and although their history is well documented in the archives of the State and the Virginia Historical Society, I believe the members of the Fairfax County Historical Society would like to have some outline included in this article.)

From the search of records in five Counties in northern Virginia, certain letters and newspaper articles in my possession, I believe that the first Turberville to come to Virginia was Honorable John Turberville, who located in Northumberland County.<sup>17</sup> In 1680 he became Sheriff of that County and was later Sheriff of Lancaster County. He was also a member of the House of Burgesses from Lancaster and was a large land owner in the Northern Neck of Virginia. His son was Major George Turberville of Hickory Hill, Westmoreland County, Virginia, who served as Clerk of the Court of Westmoreland County. He married first in April 1718 Frances Ashton, a daughter of Henry

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27. See "Partisan Life with Col. John S. Mosby" by Maj. John Scott at Page 282 and "Ranger Mosby" by Virgil Carrington Jones, Page 129.

17. Newsweek of December 10, 1951, Page 95.



Ashton; his second wife was Lettice Fitzhugh, a daughter of Honorable William Fitzhugh and Ann Lee Fitzhugh; his third and last wife was Martha Lee, daughter of Honorable Richard Lee, III and Martha Silk Lee. He had one child by the first marriage, Elizabeth Turberville, who died while she was still young. There were three children by the third marriage, Lettice Turberville, who married a Waugh, John Turberville of Hickory Hill, who was born in 1735 and died in 1799, and George Turberville of Pecatone, born about 1741. It was this latter son to whom he willed LEETON. Col. John Turberville was a member of the House of Burgesses and he married his first cousin, Martha Corbin, a daughter of Honorable John Corbin and Lettice Lee Corbin of Caroline County, Virginia. A daughter of this marriage, Martha Corbin Turberville, born at Hickory Hill, Westmoreland County, Virginia on November 4, 1778, married Dr. Mottram Ball, who moved to Fairfax County after the destruction of his property by the British in 1812. Col. Spencer Mottram Ball, a son of this marriage, born in 1801 and who died in 1859, was one time Clerk of Court of Fairfax County, Virginia. He married Mary L. Dulany and was a grandfather of my friend, James M. Ball, Jr., formerly Cashier and Vice-President of The First and Merchants Bank of Richmond, now residing on Clover Hill Farm in Goochland County, Virginia, to whom I am grateful for this information concerning the Ball relationship to the Turberville family. George Lee Turberville of Pecatone, born about 1740 and died about 1800, married Martha Corbin, only child of Gawin Corbin of Pecatone and his wife, Hannah Lee Corbin, who was a sister of Richard Henry Lee and it was their son, George R. L. Turberville, born at Pecatone, who acquired the LEETON plantation under the terms of his father's will probated and recorded January 29, 1793 in Will Book No. 18, page 278 of the will records of Westmoreland County, Virginia. He married his cousin, Harriot Lee,<sup>18</sup> a daughter of Honorable Richard Henry Lee in 1794. Her sister, Hannah Lee, married Corbin Washington, a nephew of George Washington, and it was their son, George Augustine Washington, II, that acquired Mt. Vernon from his uncle, Justice Bushrod Washington, a member of the Supreme Court of the United States. The children of George R. L. Turberville and Harriot Lee Turberville were George Lee Turberville, Richard Lee Turberville and Cornelia Lee Turberville. Richard died unmarried in 1814 and the LEETON plantation was divided between George Lee Turberville and Cornelia Lee Turberville, who married Col. Charles C. Stuart.

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18. Name sometimes spelled: Harriotte, Harriet and Henrietta, but her signature appears as Harriot on deed dated 11-22-1798, recorded in Liber B, No. 2, Page 13 of Fairfax County Land Records.

In a newspaper article that appeared in a northern Virginia paper several years ago entitled "When A Bill was A Most Courteous Apology," by Paul Turberville, he states that while rummaging through the loft of one of the oldest houses in northern Virginia, a house which was standing when General Braddock passed nearby on his ill-fated march against Fort Dequesne in 1755, he found a number of letters, bills and receipts dating from 1780s to the 1850s, that one of the greatest tongues and minds of the Revolution, Richard Henry Lee, signer of the Declaration of Independence, President of the Continental Congress, and author of the famous Resolution in June 7, 1776, ("these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states")<sup>97</sup> visited his daughter at old LEETON, the name the house has borne since it was built in 1740s. That George R. L. Turberville, a signer of the Leedstown Resolution, which preceded the Declaration of Independence, inherited this house from his father, in turn was one of the Colony's richest planters and statesmen. Here the Washingtons, the Lees, the Carters, the Stuarts and Balls and many other well known Virginia families came to visit its Master and Lady. Baron von Steuben, a friend of Marquis de Lafayette, visited his first cousin here, so there is little wonder that the letters which this old house has held are like a hidden treasure.

Among the names and signatures which appear on these old papers are Richard Henry Lee, his brother, Arthur, famous diplomat who, with Benjamin Franklin, was appointed to negotiate a treaty with France upon the outbreak of the Revolution. Richard Henry Lee's sons, Thomas and Ludwell; Edmund R. Lee, husband of Richard Henry Lee's daughter, Sally; two of George Washington's nephews, Corbin Washington and William Augustine Washington, and Richard Henry Lee's grandson and biographer of his great namesake.

One of the letters dated 1797 was written by a man who played an important part in founding two of the country's most exclusive societies, the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity and the Society of the Cincinnati.

While restoring LEETON in 1953, my sons, W. Lewis Leigh, Jr. and Douglas Leigh, found in the attic, buried in a deep layer of dust, a letter from Richard Henry Lee, written from Chantilly<sup>20</sup> dated May 8, 1793, which indicates the old dwelling had then been built.

19. In speech on June 7, 1776, before Congress in Philadelphia. See Volume IX, No. 1, Magazine of The Society of the Lees of Virginia.

20. Chantilly was the name of the home of Richard Henry Lee, located in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

I also have several other old letters given to my said sons and daughter, Miriam, by a kind and gracious lady who once lived in LEETON, Mrs. Annie S. Turberville, widow of the late George R. L. Turberville; one with the date missing was written from Bushfield<sup>21</sup> to George R. L. Turberville, Esquire, addressed to near Centreville, in Loudoun<sup>22</sup> to go by boat to Alexandria. The writer was Corbin Washington. In this letter, he states that ever since his return to Westmoreland, he has sent to the office regularly, every post day, for a letter he expected to receive from Mr. Turberville but had been disappointed and would be exceedingly glad to hear from him as often as convenient for him to write, if only a few lines, mentioning the health of his family. He further writes that he does not know when Mr. Turberville's mother is expecting him to visit her and cannot enjoy, even in anticipation, the pleasure of seeing him and requests that he write him immediately and inform him when Mr. Charles Lee means to be on his return to Philadelphia as he would like, if possible, to take leave of them before they go. In conclusion, he writes he has many letters to write to go by this boat and it prevents him from writing more at this time, that his little family is well and joins in sincere love to our valuable friends at LEETON GROVE. Signed "Your Affectionate Relation and Sincere Friend, Corbin Washington." In Post Script he writes "Mr. Charles Lee's and Edmund Lee's families are with you I suppose. Their proportion of our love sent should have been sent in separate parcels and directed accordingly."

Another letter from Corbin Washington, addressed from Alexandria, dated May 5, 1797, to Mr. George R. L. Turberville of LEETON, by Charles.<sup>23</sup> In this letter he mentions that Sally had the colic last night but is quite well again; that he refers to the instant merely to prevent rumor that Charles might occasion by not knowing what was the matter with her. He writes that he has secured for him all the articles that he wrote for, on as good terms as he could and hopes, upon trial, they will be of quality equal to the price.

I have one other letter from Corbin Washington, dated November 21, 1797, addressed to Mr. Turberville of LEETON by Isaac. In this letter he writes—"I cannot sufficiently express my thanks to you and my good sister<sup>24</sup> for your consenting in complying with my request of

21. Bushfield was home of John Augustine Washington in Westmoreland County, Va.

22. This part of Fairfax County on which Leeton stands was in Loudoun County from 1757 to 1798.

23. Letter sent by servant.

24. Corbin Washington married Sally Lee, a daughter of Richard Henry Lee, sister of Harriot Lee Turberville, wife of George R. L. Turberville. These were the two unmarried daughters mentioned in their father's Will recorded in Will and Deed Book No. 19, Page 29 of Westmoreland County, Va.

visiting us sooner than, I fear, may be convenient to your affairs. It is a favor I would not ask if circumstances did not render it indispensably necessary for me to visit Berkeley previous to my wife's confinement, which is now close at hand and I think, in her present condition, it would be unwise and imprudent to leave her without any white person with her." Continuing with other matters pertaining to loan of large wagon to draw in corn, he writes that—"As soon as Mr. Simpson told him he wanted it, he had his corn wheel sent to wheel rights to be repaired and got them home late last nite." That he can get it whenever he chooses to send for it, though he had only one lot of gear, which will be wanted about the little wagon, so that if you do not have a double set of wheel gear, you will be so that if yo udo not have a double set of wheel gear, you will be obligated to work one of the wagons with oxen." He closes with "God Bless you, my sister and nephew<sup>25</sup> and so says my wife and child."

George Lee Turberville, son of John Turberville of Westmoreland, attended William and Mary College and was one of the five students that met in the Apollo Room of Raleigh Tavern, Williamsburg, Virginia, on December 5, 1776, to foster friendship, morality and literature, and helped organize the first Greek-letter Society born in America, Phi Beta Kappa. An interesting article on the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Society of the Cincinnati in Virginia by Roger Dey Whichard, Norfolk Division College of William and Mary and VPI, that appeared in the Virginia Historical magazine in 1951, states that the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Society of the Cincinnati, two of the oldest fraternal organizations existing in our country today (the Masonic order excepted), were born less than seven years apart. The latter organization first met in Fredericksburg, Virginia on October 6, 1783, its parent organization having been completed about five months earlier in January at Von Steuben's headquarters at Fishkill on the Hudson. That, while each was fraternal, they had entirely different reasons for existing, one literary and collegiate, the other patriotic and military. That only three members of the Phi Beta Kappa between date of its inception and the time it became dormant early in 1781, became the original members of the Society of the Cincinnati in Virginia. They were Isaac Hite, Jr., William Pierce and George Lee Turberville. This article further states that the wife of Isaac Hite, Jr., was a sister to the wife of President James Madison, that William Pierce was aide-de-camp to, first, General Sullivan and then General Greene and was later a member of the Georgia House of

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25. The nephew referred to was Geo. R. L. Turberville, grandson of Richard Henry Lee, born at Leeton in 1797 and died there in 1848. He is buried in family burial ground just outside the yard at Leeton.

Representatives and member of the Continental Congress in 1786. That George Lee Turberville was a Captain in the 15th Virginia Regiment on December 2, 1776 and Aide-De-Camp to General Charles Lee; that he later served with Major General The Baron Von Steuben, another original member of the Cincinnati. When he signed the roll of the Cincinnati, he gave his residence as Richmond, as he resided there as a member of the House of Delegates from 1785 to 1787.

*In Memoriam*

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HENRY W. T. EGLIN  
April 16, 1957

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JOHN W. RUST  
November 19, 1958

JOHN CHICHESTER MACKALL  
(1897-1959)

John Mackall was as much identified with Fairfax County as anyone or anything could be and his death leaves a gap that must go unfilled for a long time. Mr. Mackall was born at Langley, Fairfax County, Virginia, the son of Douglass Sorrel Mackall and the grandson of General William W. Mackall, CSA, and Major John H. Chichester, CSA. General Mackall was a graduate of West Point, served in the Mexican War and resigned his Commission in the United States Army and offered his services to the Confederate States and rose to the rank of Brigadier General. General Mackall's father was Benjamin Mackall, also a resident of Fairfax County. Major Chichester served with the Army of northern Virginia throughout the war and for many years after the war was Treasurer of Fairfax County. John Mackall's many and varied activities have been better covered elsewhere. The purpose of this article is to memorialize his long and fruitful association with our Society.

He was present at the organization meeting at Woodlawn on February 18, 1950. He became a charter member of the society. He served on its Board of Directors from the time of its incorporation until his death. He was president for the years, 1952, 1953 and 1954. For a number of years he served as one of the editors of our Year Book and indeed his work in this connection continued until very nearly the day of his death. Mr. Mackall's excellent article on "McLean" in Volume



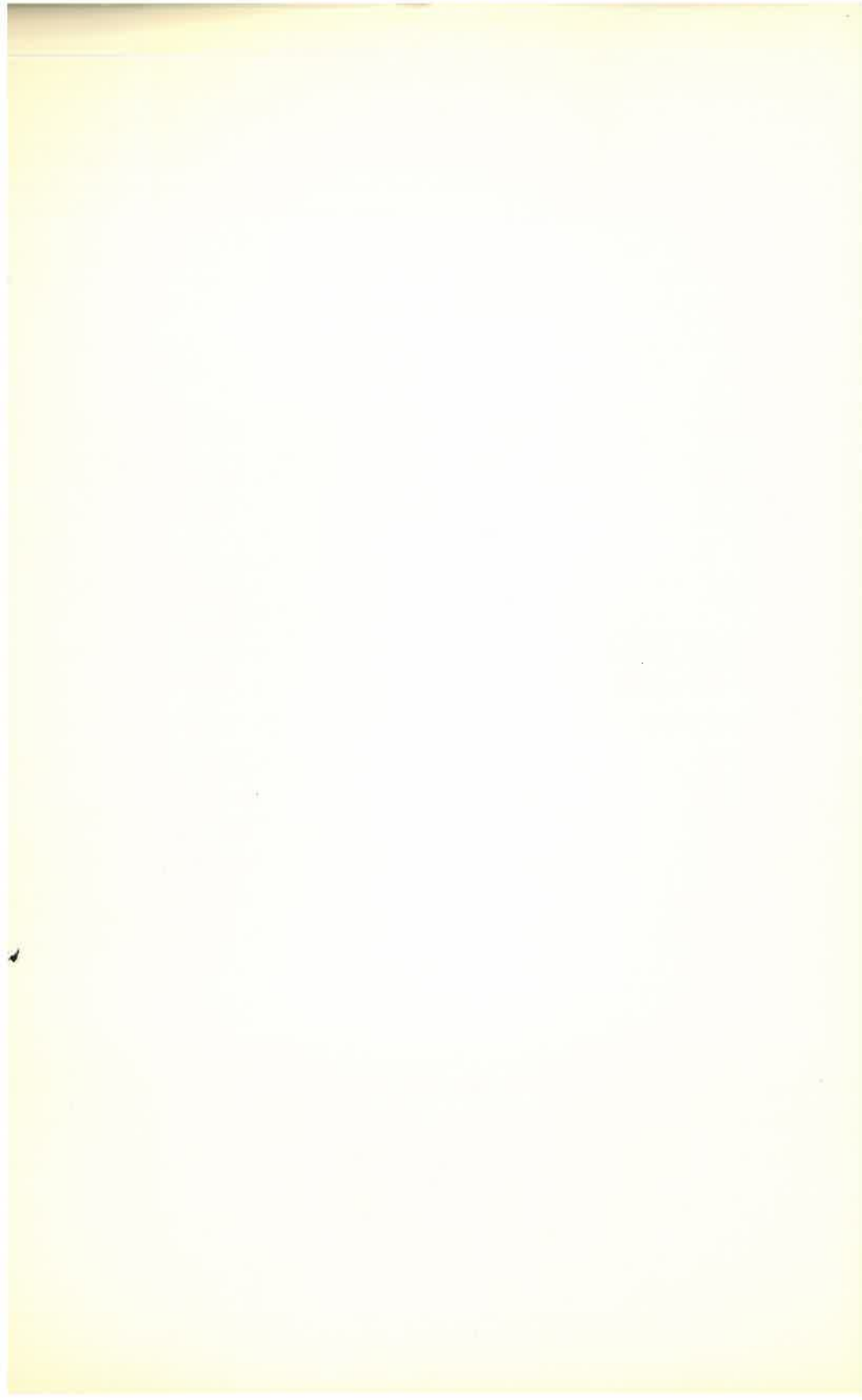
4 (1955) of the Year Book set an example of intimate writing and freshness of approach that will serve as an example to local writers and historians for years to come.

Members of the society, saddened by the news of his death, learn of it with a sense of personal loss. His leadership and enthusiasm as well as his love for everything connected with Fairfax County will be sorely missed.



John Chichester Mackall  
1897 - 1959





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Historical Society of  
Fairfax County, Virginia,  
Inc.  
Yearbook

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